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ABSTRACT

This study was the fifth survey of the Washington State licensed child care market, completed in 1996 by the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS). Data were obtained through telephone interviews of approximately 2,700 child care providers. The major findings indicate that between 1994 and 1996, the monthly rate at licensed centers and homes increased by 11.5 percent and 7.9 percent, respectively, compared to a Consumer Price Index increase of 5.9 percent. Rates varied by geographical area and child's age. Higher rates were found for centers than for homes, when staff salaries were higher, and when providers had training in early childhood education or a college degree. Approximately 99,000 children were enrolled in centers and 58,000 children in family homes. Slightly over half of both groups received full-time care. Slightly over 40 percent of children in centers or homes were preschoolers or infants. About 10 percent of both centers and homes operated during non-standard hours. About 90,000 children received DSHS-subsidized care in 1996, 16 percent of children in both centers and homes. There was an increase from 76 to 84 percent between 1994 and 1996 in the number of centers that cared for at least one DSHS-subsidized child. Over 90 percent of family providers indicated willingness to serve DSHS-subsidized families. (Two appendices include county statistical tables on child care facilities, vacancies, children in licensed and subsidized care, and average prices of preschool care; and maps detailing centers, homes, child population, and vacancies.) (KB)

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Licensed Child Care in Washington State - 1996

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Washington State Department of Social and Health Services
Management Services Administration
Research and Data Analysis

Licensed Child Care in Washington State: 1996

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Olympia, Washington 98504-5204

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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

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RESEARCH AND DATA ANALYSIS

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In conjunction with

Office of Child Care Policy, Children's Administration

and

Economic Services Administration

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Division of Research and Data Analysis, directed by Elizabeth Kohlenberg, and before her, Tim Brown, has provided not only excellent technical supports but also an atmosphere conducive to a scientific approach to the study of child care.

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SUMMARY

Background

Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) subsidized care for about 37,000 children in each month during 1996. These children are from low-income families with parents who are working, going to school, homeless, or in some other DSHS programs.

DSHS pays a maximum rate for a subsidized child, according to the child's age, the time in care (full time or part time), and the provider type (child care center, licensed family home, and provider at child's own home). The Department also varies its rates by geographical locations organized into six administrative regions. Providers charge DSHS their usual and customary rates or the DSHS rates, whichever is less.

Although federal grants for child care programs no longer directly link DSHS rates to the child care market rates, DSHS remains committed to market-based rates for its child care subsidy programs. Further, proposed regulations for the federal Child Care Development Fund would require states to base rates on surveys conducted every two years. For this purpose, we conducted the fifth survey of Washington State child care market in the Spring of 1996.

Areas of Analysis

Based on a telephone interview of approximately 2,723 child care providers (1,379 child care centers and 1,344 licensed family child care homes), this report covers the following characteristics of the Washington State licensed child care market in 1996:

- General view of child care industry in the State of Washington.
- Child care population, and distribution of children in child care by age group, location, and provider type.
- Child care rates charged for different age groups, for full- and part-time care in child care centers and licensed family homes.
- Factors associated with higher or lower child care rates.
- Capacity and vacancy rates of licensed child care providers.
- Provider operating hours.
- Provider characteristics, such as salaries, education, and business costs.
- DSHS-subsidized child care, including the distribution of DSHS children, limits set by centers on their enrollment, and the effect of DSHS rates on their enrollment.
- Trends in the child care industry over time.

Major Findings

Findings About Child Care Rates

- Between 1994 and 1996 the average monthly rate for all full-time children at licensed child care centers increased from $374 to $417. This was an increase of 11.5 percent. Over the same time period, the Consumer Price Index increased by 5.9 percent.

- Between 1994 and 1996 the average monthly rate for full-time children at licensed child care family homes increased from $353 to $381, an increase of 7.9 percent.

- Child care rates vary by geographical areas and the age of the child.

- On average, centers charge more than homes.

- In centers, rates tended to be higher when salary levels for teachers and aides were higher.

- In homes, rates tended to be higher if the provider had course work in early childhood education, and if the provider had a college degree.

Findings About Centers

- 99,499 children were enrolled in licensed centers at the time of the survey.

- 39 percent of children in centers were preschoolers, and 4 percent were infants.

- 52 percent of children in centers received full-time care.

- 66 percent of centers had vacancies; overall, the vacancy rate in centers was 15.5 percent.

- Pay for teachers at centers averaged $7.17 per hour. Aides averaged $6.07 per hour. After adjusting for inflation, there has been no increase in average wages since 1992.

- Only nine percent of centers were open during non-standard hours (hours before 6am and after 6pm). Only one percent of centers were open on weekends.

Findings About Family Homes

- 58,027 children were enrolled in licensed family homes at the time of the survey.
- 36 percent of children in homes were preschoolers, and 6 percent were infants.
- 55 percent of children in homes received full-time care.
- 39 percent of family homes had vacancies; overall, the vacancy rate was 14 percent.
- Assistants in family homes earned $5.87 per hour on average.
- Ten percent of homes operated before or after normal business hours; four percent were open on weekends.

Findings About DSHS-subsidized Child Care

- 91,046 children received DSHS-subsidized child care in 1996.
- 24,790 children received DSHS-subsidized care from licensed providers (centers and family homes).
- 16 percent of children in centers and 16 percent of children in family homes received care subsidized by DSHS.
- 84 percent of centers cared for at least one DSHS-subsidized child in 1996. This is a significant increase from 76 percent in 1994.
- 39 percent of family homes cared for at least one DSHS-subsidized child.
- 92 percent of family home providers said they would be willing to serve DSHS-subsidized families.

CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

Purpose and Objectives

In 1996, the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) subsidized child care for about 35,000 children each month. Of all DSHS children, 14,000 received services through programs administered by the Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS). The remaining 25,000 children were served by programs in Economic Services Administration (ESA). The department's child care programs are coordinated by the Office of Child Care Policy (OCCP).

Financial support for some of these programs was provided by federal Title IV-A funds. Federal funding requires that states base their child care subsidies on local market rates, and that providers receive their customary rates for their services -- up to a maximum set by DSHS. To keep up with changes in rates, states must survey the child care market at least every two years.

The primary objective of this survey was to set local maximum rates for subsidy programs based on the private-paying child care market, thus ensuring compliance with federal requirements and continued federal funding. The survey provided information on rates for child care centers and licensed family homes across Washington State.

A second objective of the study was to provide policy makers with additional data about licensed child care in Washington State:

- the population of children receiving licensed child care;
- capacity and vacancies in licensed facilities;
- the costs associated with providing child care, such as salaries, benefits, and liability insurance;
- characteristics of providers, such as professional education, years in operation, and center type--whether centers are government run, non-profit, or for profit;
- providers caring for DSHS subsidized children;
- hours of operation;
- trends in rates, compensation, and other changes in the child care market.

Background

Prior to 1988, DSHS paid for child care on an hourly basis. In 1987, the Office of Research and Data Analysis surveyed the child care market for the first time. Based on that study, DSHS established maximum child care rates for the Family Independence Program (FIP). The FIP rate structure included rates for full-time, half-day, and part-time hourly child care. From 1988 to 1991, DSHS operated with two distinct child care rate schedules, one for FIP and another, which paid only hourly, for all other child care programs in the department. In January 1991, with legislative directive and funding, DSHS adopted the FIP child care schedule for use in all its child care subsidy programs.

The Legislature subsequently required DSHS to set its maximum child care subsidies at a specified percentile of the market. Based on the 1990 survey of the child care market, DSHS established new rates in December 1991. These rates were set at the 55th percentile of market rates for licensed centers and for licensed family homes.

Keeping with Federal Title IV-A requirements, the state legislature in 1993 mandated that DSHS raise its maximum rates to the 75th percentile of rates observed in local markets. This means 75 percent of providers would receive their usual and customary charges when caring for DSHS-subsidized children.

In 1996 the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act became federal law. This legislation changed the federal funding of child care and removed the state's obligation to set rates at the 75th percentile.

DSHS Child Care Markets

To set the DSHS maximum rates, DSHS regions were chosen to represent local child care markets. Market rates for child care vary widely across Washington State. To ensure clients access to child care, whether they live in areas of more costly child care or in areas with relatively inexpensive care, DSHS previously divided the state's 39 counties into rate clusters or local markets. Groupings of counties into clusters were based on similarities in county-wide median rates for full-time and part-time child care in centers -- as observed in the 1990 survey (Miller, Miller, and Mumaw, 1991). Four rate clusters were established at that time.

The 1994 child care rate survey showed that the four-clusters established in 1990 no longer reflected local markets. Rates had sufficiently changed since 1990 to merit another look at the grouping of counties. Also, family home rates, not used when clustering counties in 1990, were included in the new cluster analysis. That analysis proved that the four clusters in use by DSHS were no longer appropriate.

A number of clustering approaches were presented to DSHS management. The new options were improvements over the prevailing DSHS clusters in that they more accurately reflected local markets. Implementing the new options, however, would lead to lower maximum rates in

some markets, markets previously linked with high cost areas such as King County. The consequences of re-clustering -- lowering maximum rates for some counties -- and the realization that in another two or four years counties would have to be re-clustered again, lead to a compromise solution.

DSHS has six administrative regions with well-known, stable, and contiguous administrative boundaries. These regions are reasonable boundaries for calculating local markets rates and are an acceptable option to set maximum rates for subsidized child care, because they help isolate high population, high-cost counties (e.g. King and Pierce). The use of DSHS regions has other added benefits. First, we can reduce administrative costs by not redrawing them every two or four years. Second, we can balance the rural counties with urbanized counties. All regions except Region 4 comprise a mix of urban counties where child care costs are generally higher and rural counties where costs are lower. But because we used a child-based, not facilities based weight method, the regional percentiles are being pulled up by the concentration of large child care population in a more urbanized county, rather than being pressed down by rural counties. The distribution of counties among DSHS Regions is shown in Figure 1 and Table 1.

Figure 1. DSHS Administrative Regions

Table 1. Assignment of Counties into DSHS Regions

Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6
Adams	Asotin	Island	King	Kitsap	Clallam
Chelan	Benton	San Juan		Pierce	Clark
Douglas	Columbia	Skagit			Cowlitz
Ferry	Franklin	Snohomish			Grays Harbor
Grant	Garfield	Whatcom			Jefferson
Lincoln	Kittitas				Klickitat
Okanogan	Walla Walla				Lewis
Pend Oreille	Yakima				Mason
Spokane					Pacific
Stevens					Skamania
Whitman					Thurston
					Wahkiakum

Study Methods

Licensed Facilities

This study surveyed two types of child care facilities licensed in the State of Washington: (1) child care centers (also referred as centers hereafter) and (2) family child care homes (also referred as family homes or homes hereafter). This survey does not account for unlicensed or illegal care. (Not all unlicensed care is illegal. For example, child care provided by a relative in the relative's home is not subject to licensing; it is legal, but is considered exempt unlicensed care.)

Centers, defined as facilities that are not residences, are licensed to care for any number of children -- subject to certain staff and space requirements. Family homes are located in residences and are licensed to care for up to 12 children -- subject to the provider's education, experience, and staffing.

As of February 1996, there were about 1,800 licensed child care centers in Washington State caring for about 99,500 children. There were also 8,600 family homes in the state caring for over 58,000 children.

Survey of Child Care Centers

Under contract with DSHS, staff at Washington State University's Social and Economic Sciences Research Center (SESRC) attempted to interview directors of all licensed child care centers in Washington State. The list of centers in the survey comprised every child care center licensed in the state as of January 1, 1996. Interviews were conducted from February 14 to April 4, 1996. During this time, most school-age children were attending school. Therefore, the data reflect the child care market as it exists approximately nine months out of the year.

The SESRC attempted to contact all 1,807 centers by telephone. Completion rate statistics for centers are summarized in Table 2. Interviewers disqualified 131 because the providers were out of business or not currently offering child care. Of the remaining 1,676 centers, 1,379 completed interviews for a completion rate over 82.3 percent of eligible centers. Also, 297 eligible centers either refused to participate in the survey or were unavailable during the interview period. If a center had a working phone number, interviewers attempted five phone calls before dropping that center from the sample.

When analyzing the data we assumed that non-responding centers were similar to those that responded to the survey. We assumed, further, that the turnover of centers is rapid enough that new centers replaced those that were no longer in business. To reflect the responses of all centers, we established a weighting factor for the number of centers in a county relative to the number of centers surveyed. When appropriate, these weights were applied throughout.

Table 2. 1996 Center Survey--Sample Completion Rate Statistics

	Number	Sub-Total Percent	Grand-Total Percent
Eligible Child Care Centers			
Completed Interviews [1]	1,379	82.3%	76.3%
Refused	51	3.0%	2.8%
Not Available [2]	246	14.7%	13.6%
Sub-total	1,676	100.0%	92.7%
Excluded Child Care Centers			
Ineligible [3]	93	71%	5.2%
Non-Working Number [4]	38	29%	2.1%
Sub-total	131	100%	7.3%
Total Sample	**1,807**		**100%**

[1] Includes 23 partially completed interviews.
[2] Unable to reach in five attempts, answering machine, or language problem.
[3] Not a child care provider, or was a child care center.
[4] Disconnected numbers, wrong numbers, duplicates, or electronic device.

Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis
1996 Survey of Child Care Centers and Family Homes

Survey of Family Homes

Between March 1 and March 26, 1996, staff at the SESRC interviewed approximately 15 per cent of the state's licensed family home child care providers. As with the survey of child care centers, data from these interviews reflect the child care market as it existed during the school year.

The SESRC attempted to contact 1,985 family homes by telephone. Interviewers disqualified 421 providers who were out of business, operating as a child care center, or not currently offering child care. Of the remaining 1,564 eligible family homes, 1,356 completed interviews for a completion rate of 86.7 per cent. Two-hundred-and-eight eligible providers either refused to participate in the survey or were unavailable during the interview period. Interviewers attempted to call all working phone numbers five times. Completion rate statistics for the family home survey are summarized in Table 3.

Table 3. 1996 Family-Home Survey--Sample Completion Rate Statistics

	Number	Sub-Total Percent	Grand-Total Percent
Eligible Family Homes			
Completed Interviews [1]	1356	86.7%	68.3%
Refused	20	1.3%	1.0%
Not Available [2]	188	12.0%	9.5%
Sub-Total	1564	100.0%	78.8%
Excluded Family Homes			
Ineligible [3]	247	58.7%	12.4%
Non-Working Number [4]	174	41.3%	8.8%
Sub-Total	421	100.0%	21.2%
Total Sample	1985	--	100.0%

[1] Includes one partially completed interview.

[2] Unable to reach in five attempts, answering machine, or language problem.

[3] Not a child care provider, or was a child care center.

[4] Disconnected numbers, wrong numbers, duplicates, or electronic device.

Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis
1996 Survey of Child Care Family Homes

Sampling Methods for the Family Home Survey

Some counties in the state have so few licensed family homes that a random sample drawn from a pool of all counties might leave small counties underrepresented in this study. As of January 1, 1996, there were 8,600 DSHS licensed family homes in the state. The number of licensed homes varied widely among counties, from zero in Garfield County to over 2,000 in King County (See Table 4 and Appendix B). To reduce the chance that small counties might be under-represented, we stratified the sample according to the number of licensed family home child care providers in a given county.

We separated the counties into six groups or strata. In counties with fewer than 40 homes, we sampled every home. We selected approximately three out of every four providers in counties with 41 to 70 homes. About one of every two homes were sampled in counties with 71 to 100 homes. For counties with 101 to 200 homes, we selected approximately 29 per cent providers. Finally, for counties with more than 200 providers, we surveyed 17 per cent providers. This last stratum excluded King County -- the county with the most providers. After interviewers exhausted the samples in the first four strata, they continued to sample and interview family homes in King County until completing at least 1,200 total interviews.

The numbers of homes in each county -- organized into the five sample strata-- are shown in Table 4. Also shown in the table are the sample sizes drawn from each county, the number of completed interviews, and their corresponding percent of the population. For analysis, we weighed all the data from family homes to account for participation rates and for the different sampling rates in each county.

Non-response Due to Language Incompatibility

One notable problem concerning possible non-response bias in the family home survey stems from the inability of phone interviewers to communicate with providers who did not speak English. Since most of these providers spoke Spanish language, we mailed out abbreviated Spanish version of the survey to 62 identified providers, and got 12 responses back. Their responses have been incorporated into the telephone survey data pool. Still, 59 such providers, or about 3 per cent of the sample, were excluded from the interview for language incompatibility.

Table 4. 1996 Family Home Survey--Total Homes, Homes Sampled and Number of Homes Surveyed by County and Strata

	Licensed Homes	Homes Sampled	Homes Interviewed	Percent Interviewed
Fewer than 40 Family Homes:				
ADAMS	29	29	18	62.1%
ASOTIN	13	13	8	61.5%
COLUMBIA	3	3	2	66.7%
FERRY	2	2	0	0.0%
GARFIELD	0	0	0	--
KLICKITAT	22	22	17	77.3%
LINCOLN	13	13	8	61.5%
PACIFIC	20	20	13	65.0%
PEND OREILLE	8	8	5	62.5%
SAN JUAN	16	16	12	75.0%
SKAMANIA	5	5	3	60.0%
STEVENS	25	25	21	84.0%
WAHKIAKUM	2	2	0	0.0%
Totals	158	158	107	67.7%
41 to 70 Family Homes:				
CLALLAM	45	34	25	55.6%
JEFFERSON	41	31	24	58.5%
KITTITAS	44	33	26	59.1%
LEWIS	65	49	33	50.8%
MASON	61	46	35	57.4%
OKANOGAN	65	49	26	40.0%
WALLA WALLA	57	43	31	54.4%
WHITMAN	50	38	27	54.0%
Totals	428	323	227	53.0%
71 to 100 Family Homes:				
COWLITZ	76	38	26	34.2%
DOUGLAS	84	42	17	20.2%
GRAYS HARBOR	93	47	30	32.3%
ISLAND	79	40	35	44.3%
Totals	332	167	108	32.5%
101 to 200 Family Homes:				
CHELAN	184	53	23	12.5%
FRANKLIN	123	36	18	14.6%
SKAGIT	161	47	36	22.4%
WHATCOM	125	36	21	16.8%
Totals	593	172	98	16.5%
201 or more Family Homes:				
BENTON	336	57	44	13.1%
CLARK	692	118	84	12.1%
GRANT	238	40	16	6.7%
KITSAP	383	65	41	10.7%
PIERCE	767	130	98	12.8%
SNOHOMISH	1084	184	125	11.5%
SPOKANE	638	108	76	11.9%
THURSTON	325	55	40	12.3%
YAKIMA	479	81	55	11.5%
Totals	4942	838	579	11.7%
King County:				
KING Totals	2146	327	237	11.0%
COUNTY UNKNOWN	1	0	0	0.0%
GRAND TOTALS	8600	1985	1356	15.8%

Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis 1996 Survey of Child Care Family Homes

Child Care Population

Based on the surveys conducted from February through April 1996, we estimate that 157,500 children in Washington State were in licensed care. About 63 per cent of these children were in child care centers and the remaining 37 per cent were in licensed family homes.

In-home care (care in the child's home, not subject to licensing) and unlicensed out-of-home care were not part of this study. These populations, however, were estimated in 1990. Assuming the proportion of children in these situations has remained the same since the 1990 study, the number of children in unlicensed out-of-home and in-home care were 51,789 and 34,184 respectively. Therefore, there may have been over 243,000 children in paid, licensed and unlicensed child care in Washington State during the study period (Table 5).

In the following chapter, more detailed information about child care populations in Washington State is provided in Table 7 for centers and in Table 8 for family homes.

Table 5, Estimates of Children in Licensed and Unlicensed Child Care, February to April, 1996, with Licensed Capacity and Vacancies in Home and Centers.

		Children Enrolled	Total [1] Capacity	Number of Vacancies	Vacancy Rate [2]
Licensed Care					
Centers	Full-time	52,060			
	Part-time	47,439			
Total in Centers		99,499	99,622	15,486	16%
Family Homes	Full-time	31,848			
	Part-time	26,174			
Total in Family Homes		58,022	61,327	8,461	14%
Total in Licensed Care		157,522	160,949	23,948	15%
Unlicensed Care [3]					
Out-of-Home		51,789			
In-Home		34,184			
Total Unlicensed Care		85,973			
Total in Licensed and Unlicensed Care		**243,495**			

[1] For centers, licensed capacity. Family homes, FTE children plus vacancies.

[2] Vacancy rate = vacancies/capacity.

[3] From proportions in the 1990 survey. [*Child Care Rates in Washington: 1990.*]

Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis 1996 Survey of Child Care Family Homes

Employment and Income

Based on child care rates and populations reported in the 1996 surveys, we estimate that licensed child care providers in Washington State earned more than $550 million in 1996. As shown in Table 6, the licensed child care industry also employed 26,833 persons during the time of the interview.

Table 6. Total Employment and Revenue in Washington State's Child Care Industry, 1992, 1994 and 1996.

	Total Number of Employees			Revenue in Million Dollars		
	1992	1994	1996	1992	1994	1996
Centers	15,200	16,220	16,667	$ 292	$ 363	$ 375
Family Homes	9,400	9,928	10,166	$ 141	$ 178	$ 187
All Licensed Facilities	**24,600**	**26,148**	**26,833**	**$ 433**	**$ 541**	**$ 561**
Out-of-Home Care (1)	7,500	8,521	8,797	$ 113	$ 163	$ 162
In-Home Care (2)	13,600	15,948	15,538	$ 77	$ 104	$ 110
All Unlicensed Care (3)	**21,100**	**24,469**	**24,335**	**$ 190**	**$ 267**	**$ 272**
Industry Total	**45,700**	**50,617**	**51,168**	**$ 623**	**$ 808**	**$ 833**

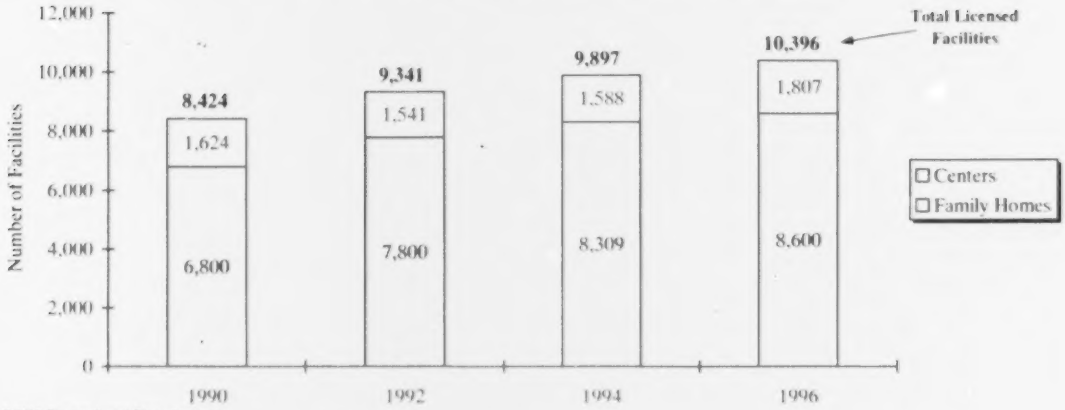
(1) Includes unlicensed out-of-home care provided by non-relatives that should, by law, be licensed. Number employed based on family-home adult-child ratio.
(2) Number of in-home care employees based on 1990 survey: (2.2 children/caregiver.)
(3) Assumes same cost per child as in licensed family home care: $3220/child/year.

Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis 1992, 1994, and 1996 Surveys of Centers and Homes.

Growth of the Licensed Child Care Industry

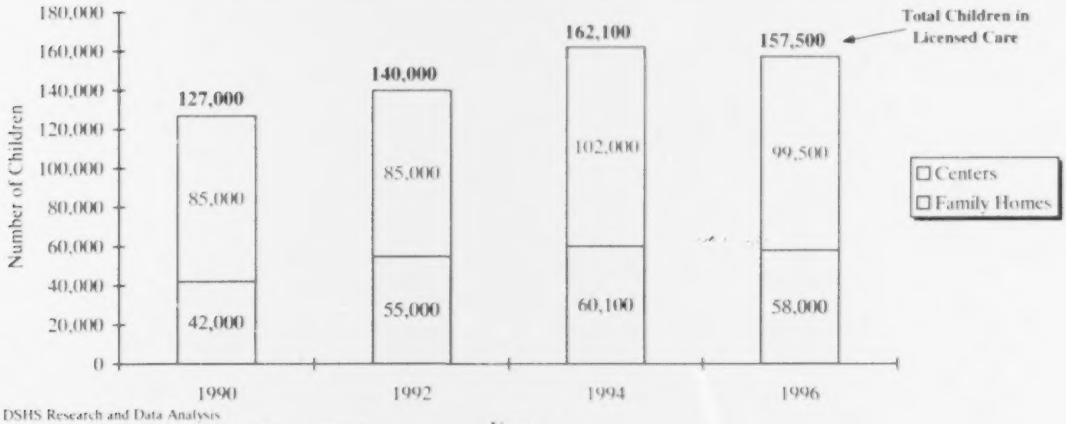
The following two graphs show changes in the size of licensed child care industry from 1990 to 1996. This period witnesses a steady increase in the number of licensed family homes, while the number of centers reached a new high, surpassing that of 1990 (Figure 2). From 1990 to 1994, the number of children enrolled in licensed child care increased for both centers and homes (Figure 3). Between 1994 and 1996 the number of children in centers and in homes remained about the same, despite an increase in the number of facilities.

Figure 2
Licensed Child Care Facilities in Washington State, 1990 to 1996



DSHS Research and Data Analysis
Surveys of Centers and Homes: 1990, 1992, 1994, and 1996

Figure 3
Children in Licensed Care in Washington State, 1990 to 1996



DSHS Research and Data Analysis
Surveys of Centers and Homes: 1990, 1992, 1994, and 1996

CHAPTER 3. CHILDREN IN LICENSED CARE

Age Groups

DSHS child care regulations differ with child age. For example, in child care centers one adult may care for no more than four infants or may care for up to fifteen school-age children. Consequently, providers' rates vary depending on the child's age because very young children tend to require more adult supervision than older children.

In this study we assigned children to discrete age groups consistent with definitions used for DSHS licensing, and for setting maximum subsidy rates. They are also consistent with age classifications used by many child care providers:

- Infant: under 12 months of age
- Toddler: from 12 to 29 months
- Preschooler: from 30 to 59 months.
- School-age: from 5 to 12 years old.
- Kindergarten: A subgroup of the school-age population attending kindergarten. Children in this age group are more likely than older children to require full-time child care. This age group was used only in the center survey.

Full-Time and Part-Time Care

Providers may charge differently depending on how much time a child spends in care; DSHS sets its maximum subsidies accordingly. Full-time care, as defined by DSHS and used in this survey, refers to care provided 30 or more hours per week (about 130 hours a month). Care is part-time if the child receives fewer than 30 hours of care per week.

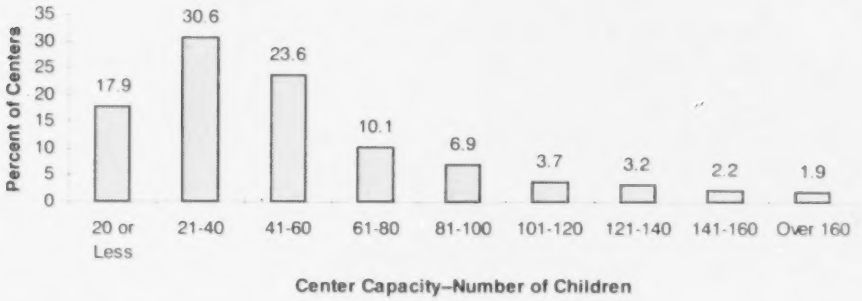
Family home providers reported the number of hours of care each child received in a week. In this report, most data on child population are reported in number of children. Occasionally, however, family home population data are reported in terms of full-time-equivalents (FTEs). FTEs are calculated in the following manner: If a child is in care for 30 or more hours per week, its FTE is the number of days in care during the week divided by five. If a child is in care for less than thirty hours, then its FTE is the total number of hours in care during the week divided by 40.

Child Care Centers

Capacity of Centers

The licensed capacity of a child care facility is the maximum number of children allowed on the premises at any time. Child care centers, in general, have larger capacities than family homes. In centers, licensed capacity ranged widely. The majority of centers, however, have capacities under 60 children (Figure 4).

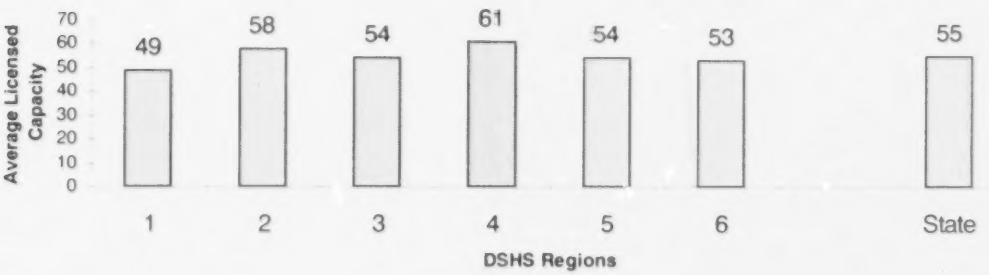
Figure 4. The Distribution of Centers by Capacity



Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis
1996 Survey of Child Care Centers

Average capacity varied among the six regions. As shown in Figure 5, the average capacity in centers ranged from 49 children per center in Region-1 to 61 children per center in Region-4. State-wide, the average capacity was 55 children per center, a continuation of the general trend of decline since 1990 (Figure 5).

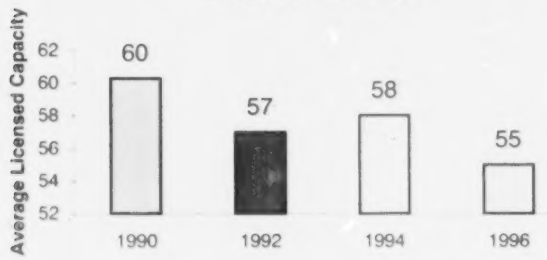
Figure 5. Average Center Capacity by Region



Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis
1996 Survey of Child Care Centers

Between 1990 and 1996, we observed a trend toward smaller centers. Average center capacity decreased from 60 children in 1990 to 55 children in 1996 (Figure 6).

Figure 6. Changes in Average Capacity of Centers, 1990-1996



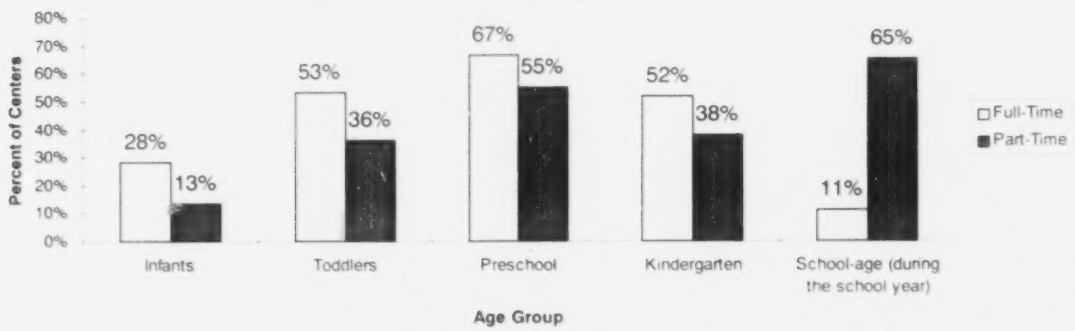
Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis
1990, 1992, 1994, and 1996 Surveys of Centers

Full-Time and Part-Time Care in Centers

Some centers offered only full-time or only part-time care to certain age groups. The proportions of the state's centers offering full-time or part-time care are shown in Figure 7. Overall, more centers offered full-time care than part-time care.

More centers provided full-time care to preschoolers than to any other age-group: 67 per cent of centers cared for full-time preschoolers. The least common care provided by centers was that offered to infants: 28 per cent of centers cared for infants full-time and only 13 per cent of centers offered part-time infant care.

Figure 7. Centers Providing Full- and Part-Time Care by Age Group

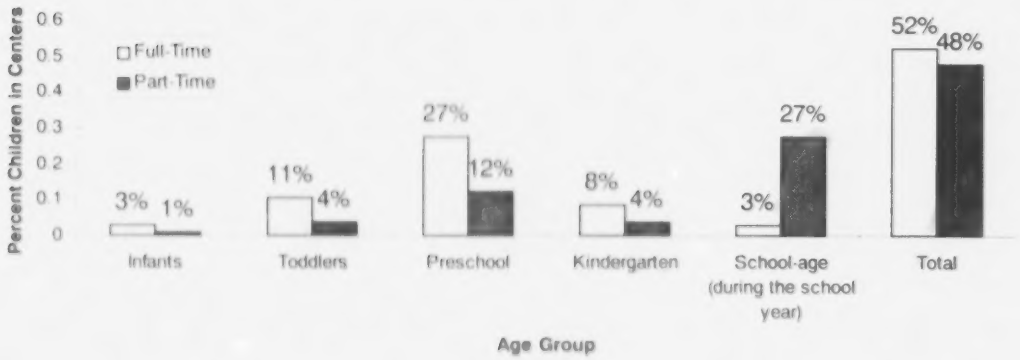


Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis, 1996 Survey of Child Care Centers

Many centers also provide care for school-age children during the summer. About 67 per cent of them offer such service. Among centers providing summer care for school-age children, 97 per cent provide full-time care, and 68 per cent provide part-time service.

The estimated distribution of children in centers by age group and time-in-care is summarized in Figure 8 and Table 7. Preschoolers in full-time care were the largest group in the center population (27 per cent). Infants in part-time care, the smallest group, comprised about one per cent of the child population in centers.

Figure 8. Children in Centers in Full- or Part-Time Care



Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis, 1996 Survey of Child Care Centers

Table 7. Estimated Child Care Center Populations by Age and Region: 1996

Full-Time Population Estimate [1]

Age Group	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	All
Infant	322	383	308	1,076	382	316	2,787
Toddlers	1,161	1,030	1,474	3,985	1,503	1,280	10,434
Preschool	2,778	2,337	3,617	10,304	4,028	3,843	26,905
Kindergarten	1,029	851	1,154	2,575	1,393	1,219	8,221
School-age [2]	191	378	997	1,310	589	248	3,713
Total	5,481	4,979	7,550	19,250	7,895	6,907	52,060

Part-Time Population Estimate [1]

Age Group	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	All
Infant	85	96	128	258	198	89	853
Toddlers	447	349	684	1,156	616	490	3,741
Preschool	1,784	1,143	2,213	3,970	1,642	1,466	12,217
Kindergarten	589	284	732	995	407	545	3,552
School-age [3]	4,822	2,195	3,190	8,543	4,253	4,073	27,076
Total	7,726	4,066	6,947	14,922	7,115	6,663	47,439

[1] Children in sample multiplied by a county weighting factor to estimate population.

[2] Survey was conducted during the school year. School-age children in part-time care may switch to full-time care in the summers.

[3] Part-time school-age total includes before- and after-school care.

Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis, 1996 Survey of Child Care Centers

Family Homes

Children in Family Homes

Children in licensed family homes receive care in a provider's residence. Because family homes are licensed to care for 12 or fewer children, their average licensed capacity is considerably less than that of centers. In the past surveys family home providers were not asked about their legal capacity. Instead, they told us about hours in care for each child, and we calculated the Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) for all children in care. In the 1996 survey we asked directly about family home provider's legal capacity, and used this to estimate the total capacity, vacancy rates, and slots for 100 children. The rational for changing to the new method is as follows:

In 1996, for example, the average family home cared for 6.7 children in addition to the provider's own children. On average, 7.6 children could be combined into an estimated 4.7 FTEs. We also know from the survey that there was on average one vacancy in each family home. Using the past FTE methodology, we estimated the average capacity of family homes:

4.7 FTE enrolled + 1 vacancy = average capacity =5.7

The FTE model for calculating capacity was used in the publication *Licensed Child Care in Washington State – 1996: County-Level Tables and Maps.*

In the 1996 survey, child care providers gave us their licensed capacity and the number of their own children. We used these answers to arrive an average licensed capacity of 8.3 children, and an average of 1.2 provider's own children in care during business hours. This left an average capacity of 7.1 slots, which could be provided to others.

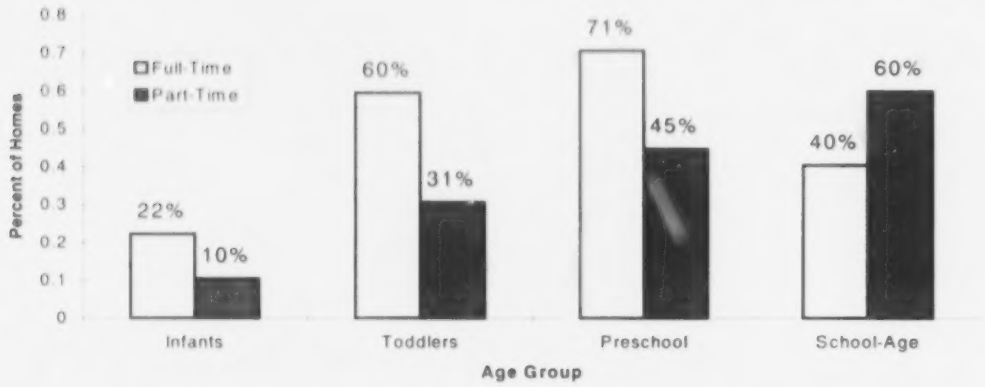
Clearly, the FTE approach in the previous surveys has seriously underestimated the capacity in family homes. Two assumptions underlay this error. First, we assumed that providers could work schedules to fill their slots. For example, two children each receiving 20 hours of care per week would always fill one slot. This can be a scheduling challenge. Second, to asked providers about their vacancies we posed the question how many more children they would like to serve. We assumed that all providers would like to operate at their maximum capacity.

To maintain consistency with earlier surveys, as we shift to a new methodology, we included the FTE method in the county data in the Appendix. All other reference to family home capacity in this report is based on the formula that the true capacity is the licensed capacity less the provider's own children.

Full-Time and Part-Time Care in Family Homes

The most common care provided by family homes was full-time child care for preschoolers. Over 70 per cent of family homes provided full-time care to preschoolers. Only 10 per cent of homes provided part-time care to infants. Figure 9 shows the proportion of homes that provided full-time or part-time care to each age group.

Figure 9. Homes Providing Full- or Part-Time Care by Age Group

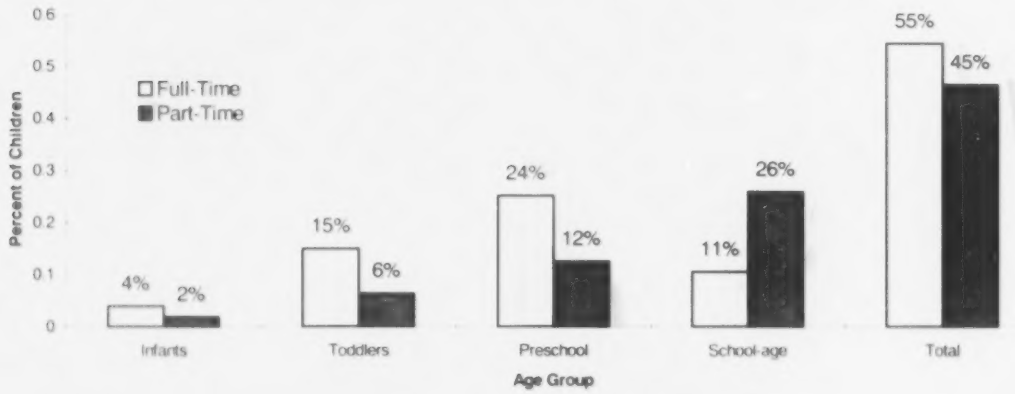


Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis
1996 Survey of Family Homes

Figure 10 shows the distribution of children in family homes by age group, and part-time or full-time status. The estimated populations of children in family homes, by regions, age group, and time-in-care are presented in Table 8. Preschoolers and school-age children were the largest groups (about 37 per cent) of children in family homes. Only six per cent of children in family homes were infants. (Note that school-age includes kindergarten, a group of children treated separately in the center survey.)

Slightly more children in family homes (55 per cent) received full-time care than part-time care. As they did in centers, preschoolers made up the largest segment of children receiving full-time care in family homes. Infants, toddlers, and preschoolers were all more likely to be in full-time rather than part-time care. School-age children, because of their need for before- and after-school care, were most likely to receive part-time care. Indeed, they were the largest segment of the part-time population.

Figure 10. Children in Homes in Full- or Part-Time Care



Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis, 1996 Survey of Family Homes

Table 8. Estimated Family Home Child Care Population by Age and Region: 1996

Full-Time Population Estimate [1]

Age Group	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	All
Infant	412	351	294	693	292	410	2,452
Toddler	1,497	1,013	1,454	2,440	1,182	1,365	8,952
Preschool	2,239	1,827	2,188	3,645	2,055	2,226	14,180
School-age [2]	941	774	878	1,405	1,113	1,153	6,265
Total	5,089	3,965	4,815	8,182	4,642	5,155	31,848

Part-Time Population Estimate [1]

Age Group	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	All
Infant	153	72	200	351	82	139	997
Toddler	593	268	729	1,025	845	526	3,986
Preschool	976	566	1,201	1,965	2,669	1,184	8,561
School-age	2,194	1,453	3,007	2,677	388	2,911	12,630
Total	3,916	2,358	5,138	6,018	3,984	4,760	26,174

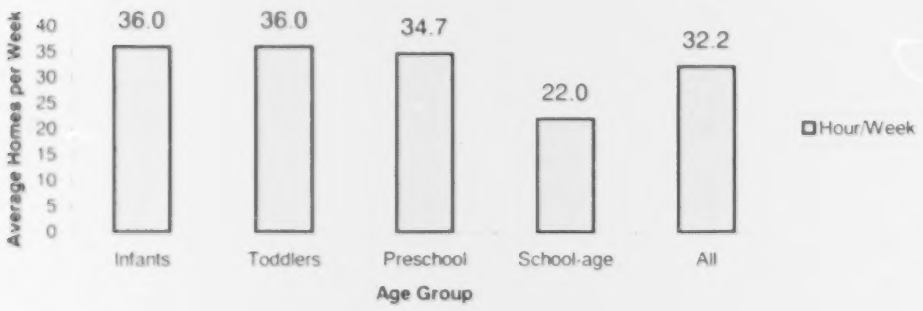
[1] Children in sample multiplied by a county weighting factor to estimate population.
[2] Survey was conducted during the school year. School-age children in part-time care may switch to full-time care in the summer.

Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis, 1996 Survey of Family Homes

Hours of Care in Family Homes

Children in family homes spent an average of 32.2 hours per week in child care. Infants, toddlers, and preschoolers spent the most time in care. School-age children spent the least time in care (22 hours/week) because they were more likely to use only part-time care. Average time in care for all children and by age-group is shown in Figure 11.

Figure 11. Hours per Week in Family Home Care by Age Group



Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis
1996 Survey of Family Homes

Capacity and Vacancies in Centers and Homes

Licensed capacity in center and family home is set by state law. The Department determines the facility's maximum capacity by evaluating (1) the facility's premises, equipment, and physical conditions, (2) number and skills of the licensee and staff, and (3) ages and characteristics of the children served. For various reasons, many centers and homes do not operate at their licensed maximum capacity. When they don't, there are vacancies.

The average capacity in 1996 was 7.1 in homes and 55.5 in centers. Table 9 shows the total full-time capacity of centers and family homes, total vacancies, and the overall vacancy rate for licensed child care. To estimate vacancies, providers were asked how many openings they had for children of any age. The average response was nearly one vacancy per family home and 8.6 vacancies per center. Not all facilities had vacancies: About 66 per cent of centers and 39 per cent of homes reported at least one vacancy. Among regions, these percentages differed significantly for both homes and centers (more discussions follow Table 10).

The vacancy rate is the number of vacancies as a percent of total capacity. Vacancy rates were 15.5 per cent for child care centers and 14 per cent for family homes. Centers with vacancies had an average vacancy rate of 25 per cent, and homes with vacancies had an average vacancy rate of 31.6 per cent. Overall, 15 per cent of licensed child care slots were vacant during the survey period, a slight increase over 1994.

Table 9. Capacity and Vacancies for Licensed Child Care in Washington

	Total [1] Capacity	Number of Vacancies	Vacancy Rate [2]
Capacity and Vacancies in:			
All Centers	99,622	15,486	16%
Per Center	55.5	8.6	
All Family Homes	61,327	8,461	14%
Per Family Home	7.1	1	
All Licensed Facilities	160,949	23,948	15%

[1] For centers, the maximum number of children a provider may legally care for at one time (licensed capacity).
For family homes, licensed capacity less provider's own children.

[2] Vacancy rate = vacancies/capacity.

Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis
1996 Survey of Child Care Centers and Family Homes

Vacancy Rates by Region

The average vacancy rates for centers and homes in each region are shown in Table 10 on the right. For family homes, Region-2 was significantly different from other regions. Average center vacancy rates among regions ranged from 14 per cent in Region-4 and Region-5 to 19 per cent in Region-3. However, the regional differences in vacancy rates at centers were not statistically significant.

Table 10. Vacancy Rate in Child Care Centers and Family Homes by Region

Region	Center Vacancy	Home Vacancy
1	17%	12%
2	18%	20%
3	19%	13%
4	14%	14%
5	14%	13%
6	16%	14%
All	16%	14%

Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis
1996 Survey of Centers and Family Homes

Vacancies by Age Group

A vacant slot in a home or center may not be open to children of all ages. The state limits the number of children that can be placed in a facility. For example, in centers one adult may care for only four infants, seven toddlers, ten preschoolers, or fifteen school-age children. Therefore, while some providers may not have sufficient staff to meet adult-to-child ratios for infants, they may have vacancies for older children. The percentages of licensed facilities with any vacancies are shown in the following Tables 11 and 12. (As mentioned earlier, the regional differences in these percentages were statistically significant.)

Also shown in these two tables are the percentages of childcare facilities with vacancies for some selected age-groups. For example, 39 per cent of homes statewide had any vacancies, but only 19 per cent had vacancies for infants or toddlers. The only significant regional differences in vacancies for selected age-groups was among centers with vacancies for school-age children. Here Region-6 had a lower share of centers with vacancies for school-age children than any other region.

Table 11. Percent of Family Homes with Vacancies: by Region and Age Group

Region	Any Children	Infants or Toddlers
1	35%	19%
2	43%	21%
3	41%	21%
4	39%	18%
5	38%	18%
6	40%	17%
Statewide	39%	19%

*Difference between regions statistically significant with 99.9% confidence.

Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis
1996 Survey of Family Homes

Table 12. Percent of Centers with Vacancies: by Region and Age Group

Region	Any Children [2]	Infants [1]	Toddlers [2]	Pre-Schoolers [2]	School-Agers [2]
1	64%	12%	27%	41%	39%
2	71%	18%	28%	40%	40%
3	66%	20%	36%	46%	32%
4	67%	15%	35%	50%	28%
5	67%	11%	28%	43%	36%
6	61%	15%	28%	46%	27%
Statewide	66%	15%	31%	46%	33%

[1] Difference among regions not statistically significant with 98% confidence.
[2] Difference among regions statistically significant with 98% confidence.

Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis
1996 Survey of Family Homes

Vacancies by Center Size and Center Type

If vacancy affects efficiency, child care centers will optimize their size. The survey shows that large centers were more likely to have vacancies than smaller centers (Table 13). This fact may explain in part the decline of the average capacity of centers as discussed early in this chapter (Figure 6).

Center vacancies also varied with the center's ownership type. Non-profit child care centers tended to have fewer vacancies than government-run or private for-profit centers (Table 14).

Table 13. Percent of Centers with Vacancies: by Center Capacity

Center Capacity	Any Children *	Infants *	Toddlers *	Pre-Schools *	School-Ages *
20 or Less	43%	11%	15%	23%	19%
21-40	70%	13%	28%	41%	36%
41-60	71%	11%	31%	53%	37%
61-80	65%	15%	37%	49%	27%
81-100	72%	28%	44%	57%	34%
101-120	67%	20%	39%	58%	21%
121-140	86%	41%	66%	84%	45%
141-160	83%	28%	63%	66%	59%
Over160	81%	17%	49%	57%	55%
Average	66%	15%	31%	46%	33%

*Difference significant with 99% confidence.

Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis, 1996 Survey of Child Care Centers

Table 14. Percent of Centers with Vacancies: by Center Type

Center Type	Any Children *	Infants*	Toddlers *	Pre-Schools *	School-Ages *
Non-profit	66%	11%	25%	41%	35%
Private	72%	21%	42%	58%	32%
Government	71%	10%	14%	24%	43%
All	69%	16%	32%	47%	34%

*Difference significant with 99% confidence.

Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis, 1996 Survey of Child Care Centers

Availability of Child Care

A convenient statistic for comparing availability of licensed care among different areas is a ratio of availability to potential demand -- the number of licensed slots per 100 children. In 1996, about 1,088,136 children under the age of 13 lived in Washington State. The total licensed capacity of centers and homes was 160,949. So, there were 15 licensed slots in the state for every 100 children under 13 years old.

Among the DSHS regions, availability ranged from 12 slots per 100 children in Region-5 and Region-6 to 15 slots per 100 children in Region-2 and Region-4 (Table 15). Availability varied even more widely among counties--from two slots per 100 children in Columbia, four in Pend Oreille and Skamania, to 25 slots per 100 in Adams. (See Appendix A for tables and Appendix B for maps.) Differences in availability among regions or counties can be attributed to many factors. Among them are differences in profitability, in the value parents placed on licensed child care, the availability of safe alternatives to licensed care, or the state's ability to recruit or license providers.

Table 15. Relative Availability of Child Care

Region	Children 0-12 [1]	Licensed Slots [2]	Slots per 100 Children
1	143,886	22,867	16
2	108,075	16,726	15
3	176,805	25,063	14
4	294,740	48,595	16
5	184,715	25,071	14
6	179,916	22,650	13
Total	1,088,137	160,951	15

[1] Based on estimates of 1996 populations by OFM (Governor's Office of Financial Management).

[2] From 1996 surveys of child care centers and family homes. Regions differ significantly with 95% confidence.

Age Differences of Children in Licensed Care

Whether or not children were in licensed care depended strongly on the age of the children. At the time of the 1996 survey, 157,500 children were receiving licensed child care. As shown in Table 16, of all children in licensed care 39 per cent were preschoolers, yet preschoolers were only 20 per cent of all children under the age of 13. In contrast, 39 per cent of all children in licensed care were school-age, while that group comprised 63 per cent of all children under the age of 13.

Table 16. Children in Washington State Compared to Children in Licensed Care

Age Group	OFM Estimate of Total Population	Percent [1] of All Children in WA State	Washington State Child Care Population	Age Group as Percent of Children in Child Care [2]	Child Care Population as % of Total Population
Infants	76,643	7%	7,089	5%	9%
Toddlers	112,078	10%	27,113	17%	24%
Preschool	218,716	20%	61,863	39%	28%
School-age	681,054	63%	61,456	39%	9%

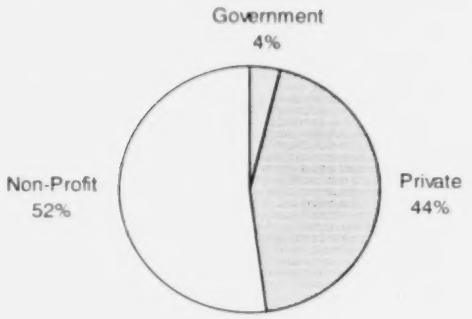
[1] Based on OFM estimates of 1996 populations.

[2] From 1996 surveys of child care centers and family homes.

Types of Centers

Providers identified their centers in one of three ways: government operated, non-profit, or private for-profit (Figure 12). Fifty-two percent of all child care centers were non-profit organizations, 44 percent defined themselves as private business, with the remaining three percent as government-run centers.

Figure 12. Types of Child Care Centers



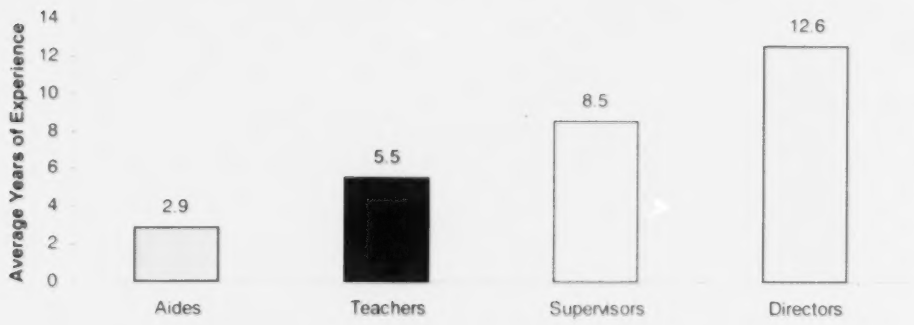
Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis
1996 Survey of Child Care Centers

Staff Experience and Education

Years of Experience: Center Staff

Respondents at centers described the child care experience of their staff: aides, teachers, program supervisors, and directors. The experience of these workers ranged from less than a year to over 50 years in paid child care. Experience varied with the type of position. Aides had the least experience, 2.9 years. Directors, in comparison, averaged 12.6 years. Figure 13 shows the average number of years in paid child care employment for each position.

Figure 13. Average Paid Child Care Experience of Center Staff



Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis 1996 Survey of Child Care Centers

Non-Paid Staff at Centers

All centers employed paid staff; state-wide, centers had an average of 10 employees. Some centers also got additional help from volunteers. Volunteers were present at 34 per cent of the centers surveyed.

As shown in Table 17, the use of volunteers varied considerably by type of center. Private centers were the least likely (25 per cent) to use them, while 36.5 per cent of non-profit and 33.5 per cent of government-run centers used volunteers. The number of volunteers on site also varied according to the type of center. Among the centers with at least one volunteer, private centers averaged 2.3 volunteers, non-profits 4.4, and government-operated centers 17.6 respectively.

Table 17. Percent of Centers Using Volunteers and Number of Volunteers by Center Type

Type of Centers	Using Volunteers	Number of Volunteers
Private	25.1%	2.25
Non-Profit	36.5%	4.36
Government	33.5%	17.6
All Centers	30%	4.19

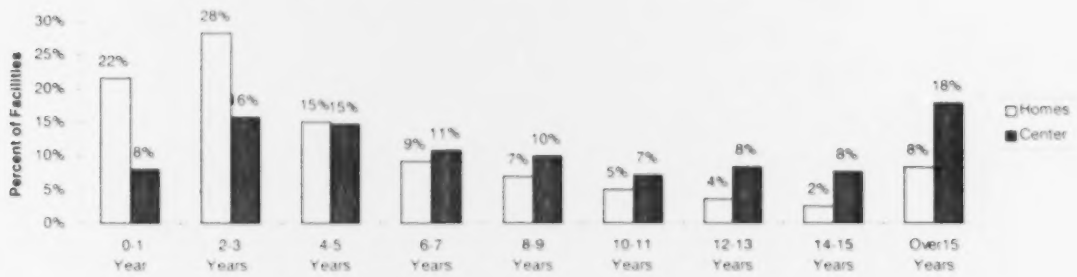
Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis, 1996 Survey of Child Care Centers.

Centers and Homes' Years in Operation

The average family home had been in operation for 5.8 years. When family home providers were asked how long they had been in operation, they reported from less than one year's experience to 95 years. Half of family homes had been in operation for less than four years. The percentages of family homes, by years of operation, are shown in Figure 14. More than 80 per cent family home providers planned to operate their child care business at least for two years. On average, they planned to run the service for seven years (Figure 15).

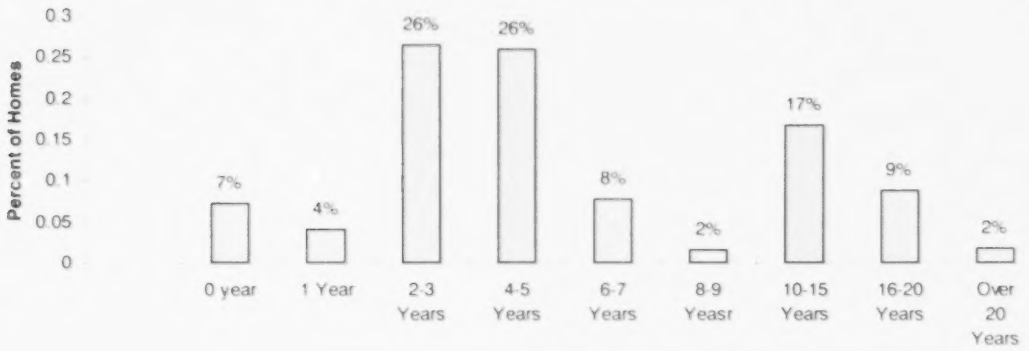
Centers, on the other hand, had been in operation for 10.9 years on average. Providers reported between 0 and 99 years of operation. Half of the centers had been in operation for six years or more. Figure 14 also shows the percent of centers by years of operation.

Figure14. Years in Business: Homes and Centers



Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis, 1996 Survey of Child Care Centers.

Figure 15. Years Plan to Operate Child Care at Home



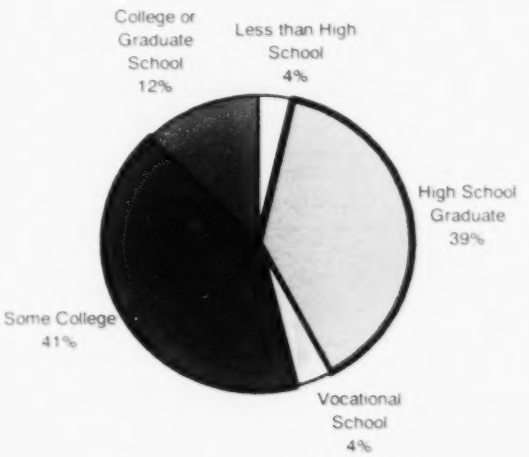
Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis, 1996 Survey of Child Care Centers.

Family Home Providers' Education and Training

Almost all, (96 per cent) of licensed family home child care providers have completed high school. Forty-five percent have earned some college credit or have vocational training, and twelve percent have a bachelors' degree or better (Figure 16).

Majority of licensed child care providers have access to formal early childhood education (ECE) training through local colleges, referral agencies, or associations for child care professionals. Almost 70 per cent of family home providers indicated that they had formal ECE training (Figure 16).

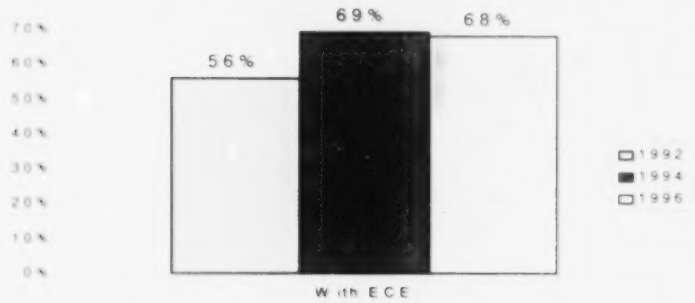
Figure 16. Family Home Providers' Highest Level of Education



Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis 1996 Survey of Family Home.

Since 1992, the share of family home providers with formal ECE training has increased. In 1992, 56 per cent of family providers had formal ECE training (Figure 15, 1992). By 1994, the percentage of providers with formal ECE training had increased to 69 per cent and remained basically unchanged in 1996 (Figure 17).

Figure 17. Training in Early Child Hood Education (ECE) in Family Homes: 1992-1996



Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis 1992, 1994, and 1996 Surveys of Family Home.

Salaries and Benefits for Child Care Workers

Wages at Centers

The average wages or salaries of center staff -- aides, teachers, supervisors, and directors -- are shown in Table 18. Directors earned $1,863 per month on average. Of the remaining staff, supervisors earned the most, followed by teachers, then aides. Centers in Region 4 (King County) offered the highest wages to employees.

Table 18. Average Wages and Salary in Child Care Centers by Region

Region	Number of Centers	Aides	Teachers	Supervisors	Directors
1	266	$ 5.95	$7.06	$8.34	$1926/mo.
2	168	$ 5.88	$6.46	$8.78	$1854/mo.
3	278	$ 5.94	$7.03	$8.91	$1786/mo.
4	556	$ 6.50	$7.66	$10.28	$2049/mo.
5	292	$ 5.97	$6.60	$8.43	$1664/mo.
6	263	$ 5.58	$6.82	$8.13	$1670/mo.
Statewide	1796	$ 6.07	$7.17	$9.13	$1863/mo.

*With 99% confidence, Region 4 had significantly higher wages than other regions.

Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis
1996 Survey of Child Care Centers

Wages to center employees varied significantly by region, but they also vary by the type of ownership: whether the center was a non-profit, government-run, or a private enterprise. Wages paid at each of these types of centers are shown in Table 19.

Table 19. Average Wages in Child Care Centers by Center Type

Type	Number of Centers	Aides	Teachers	Supervisors	Directors
Government	70	$ 7.51	$10.10	$11.25	$2572.58/mo.
Non-Profit	938	$ 6.14	$7.42	$9.47	$1928.46/mo.
Private	788	$ 5.80	$6.83	$8.21	$1676.38/mo.
Statewide	1796	$ 6.07	$7.17	$9.13	$1863/mo.

*With 99% confidence, salaries differed significantly by type of center.

Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis, 1996 Survey of Child Care Centers

Wages in Family Homes

Most family homes are one-person operations. About 18 per cent of homes, however, employ at least one paid assistant. These assistants work about 29.8 hours each week on average. Their average hourly wage is $5.87, similar to wages earned by aides in centers (Table 20 on the right). For more information on wages of aids in family homes, see the section on wage trends in family homes later in this chapter.

Table 20. Assistants' Wages in Licensed Homes

Region	Total Homes	Homes with Assistants	Average Wages
1	1336	187	$4.74
2	1055	141	$5.65
3	1465	231	$6.10
4	2147	407	$6.70
5	1150	261	$5.70
6	1447	338	$5.50
Statewide	8600	1567	$5.87

*With 99.9% confidence, Region-4 wages were significantly higher.

Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis, 1996 Survey of Family Homes.

Income of Family Homes

One third of family home providers reported that child care earnings were their primary source of income. The salary of an owner-operators of child care family home is whatever remains of their income after costs. Not enough data were collected to estimate the cost of operating a family home, but half of the homes surveyed reported $15,000 or more in gross income for 1995 and an average of $17,200. Annual earnings by region are shown in Table 21.

Table 21. Average Gross Annual Earnings in Family Homes:1996

Region	Average Earnings
1	$14,500
2	$15,600
3	$16,700
4*	$20,600
5	$17,600
6	$16,300
Statewide	$17,200

*Significantly higher earnings with 99.9% confidence.

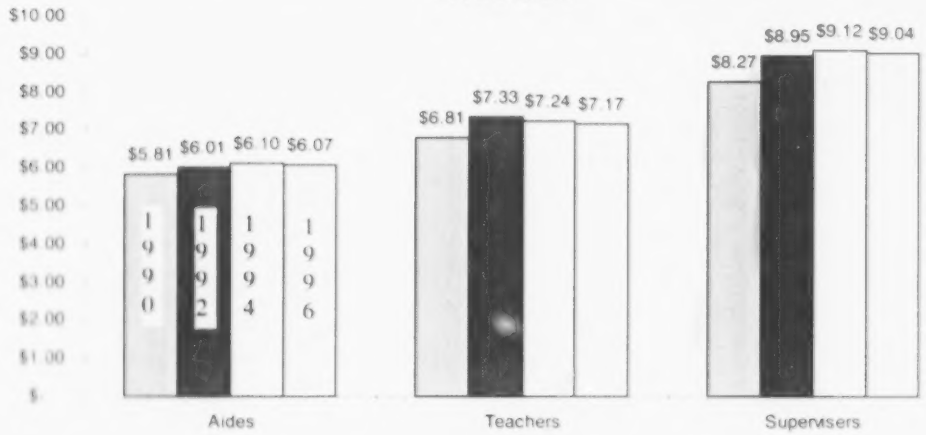
Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis
1996 Survey of Family Homes.

Wage Trends in Centers

Child care workers receive relatively low wages: center aides, teachers, and supervisors averaged $6.07, $7.17, and $9.04 per hour in 1996. At that time, average hourly wages were $10.51 in the wholesale-retail trades, $14.70 in manufacturing, and $19.47 in construction. Compared with 1994, child care workers' wages declined marginally, while wages for workers in most industries in the state gained. Furthermore, while child care workers' average wages decreased, wages of the state's service industry as a whole improved significantly. (*Labor Market Report: Income, Earnings and Wages*, and *Washington Labor Market-LMI Review*, Washington State Employment Security Department, Labor Market and Economic Analysis Branch, 1996). Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) recently released its *Occupational Employment Statistics* (OES). This first comprehensive national annual survey yields the "1996 Occupational Employment and Wage Data." In the State of Washington, according to BLS, wages of "child care workers," defined in our survey as "aids" in centers (or "assistants" in child care family homes), tend to be even lower than that of many workers in "personal service" jobs (OES Code 68000 category), such as maids, janitors, guides, locker room attendants, and home care aids. A word of caution is order here for reading teachers' wages in OES survey. Because our survey uses different and finer definitions of jobs, teachers' wages in OES survey are not the same.

In addition, the comparison can be made by studying the wage trend of child care workers in centers over time. As illustrated in Figure 18, average real wages for child care workers -- wages adjusted to account for changing costs of living -- have stalled since 1990.

Figure 18. Changes in Child Care Wages from 1990 to 1996, Adjusted to 1996 Dollars



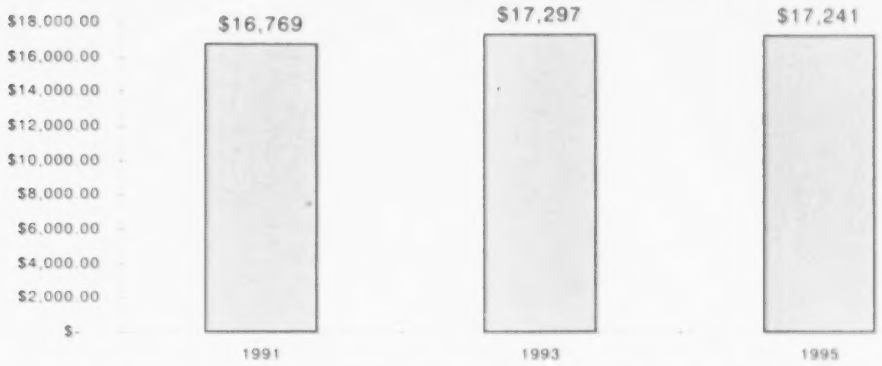
Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis, 1992, 1994, and 1996 Surveys of Child Care Centers.

Wage Trends in Family Homes

Comparison of family home aids' wages over time yields a similar pattern in the period between 1992 and 1996 (wage rates for assistants in family homes were not available from the 1990 survey). After adjusting to 1996 dollars, the average hourly real wages of assistants in family homes increased only five percent from $5.56 to $5.82, and then to $5.87 between 1992 and

1996. However, this 5.6 per cent increase was slightly higher than the 2.8 per cent change in average annual gross earnings of family homes in the same period. (Figure 19).

Figure19. Average Gross Earnings in Family Homes:1991-1995, Adjusted to 1995 Dollars



Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis, 1992, 1994, and 1996 Surveys of Family Homes.

Employee Benefits at Centers

State-wide, 76 per cent of centers included some benefits in addition to their employees' salaries. The percents of centers providing any benefits, sick leave, vacation, or health insurance are shown in Table 22. Centers in Region-4 were the most likely to offer benefits of any kind. Centers in Region-2 were the least likely to provide their employees sick leave, paid vacation, or health insurance.

Table 22. Centers Providing Benefits by Benefit Type and Region

Region	Total Number of Centers	Any Benefit	Paid Sick Leave	Paid Vacation	Medical Insurance
1	266	73%	58%	63%	51%
2	168	59%	52%	55%	44%
3	278	75%	59%	70%	46%
4	556	84%	74%	81%	64%
5	292	78%	53%	69%	44%
6	236	70%	55%	64%	53%
Statewide	1796	76%	62%	70%	53%

*With 99.9% confidence, significant difference between regions.

Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis
1996 Survey of Child Care Centers

The most striking differences in percentages of centers providing benefits are apparent when comparing government-run, non-profit, and private centers (Table 23). The difference is especially noticeable in regard to health insurance; 96 per cent of government-run centers provide employee health insurance while 43% of private centers do the same. Non-profit centers fall between these two extremes in every category.

Table 23. Centers Providing Benefits by Center Type

Center Type	Total Number of Centers	Any Benefit	Paid Sick Leave	Paid Vacation	Medical Insurance
Government	70	96%	96%	92%	96%
Non-Profit	938	78%	66%	70%	58%
Private	788	72%	54%	69%	43%
Statewide	1796	76%	62%	70%	53%

*With 99.9% confidence, significant difference between regions.

Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis, 1996 Survey of Child Care Centers

Since 1990, when centers were first surveyed about plans for employee compensation, centers have become more inclined to provide benefits beyond a base salary. Table 24 on the right shows how the percentages of centers offering benefits have changed over time. Please note that between 1994 and 1996 there was little change in the proportion of centers offering benefits.

Table 24. Increase in Employee Benefits Child Care Centers, 1990-1996

Year	Paid Sick Leave	Paid Vacation	Health Insurance
1990	56%	63%	45%
1992	61%	69%	51%
1994	60%	70%	56%
1996	62%	70%	53%

Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis
1996 Survey of Child Care Centers

The level of wages and benefits offered by centers are related. Centers that provide benefits also pay higher wages. Table 25 shows how wages at centers that provide health insurance are higher than the wages paid by centers that do not provide medical coverage.

Table 25. Health Insurance and Higher Wages in Centers

Staff Position	Wages with Health Insurance	Wages without Health Insurance	Wages With Any Benefits	Wages Without Any Benefits
Aides	$6.30/hr.	$5.68/hr.	$6.15/hr.	$5.75/hr.
Teachers	$7.43/hr.	$6.84/hr.	$7.26/hr.	$6.62/hr.
Supervisors	$9.80/hr.	$8.28/hr.	$9.50/hr.	$7.68/hr.
Directors	$1975/mo.	$1522/mo.	$1827/mo.	$1326/mo.

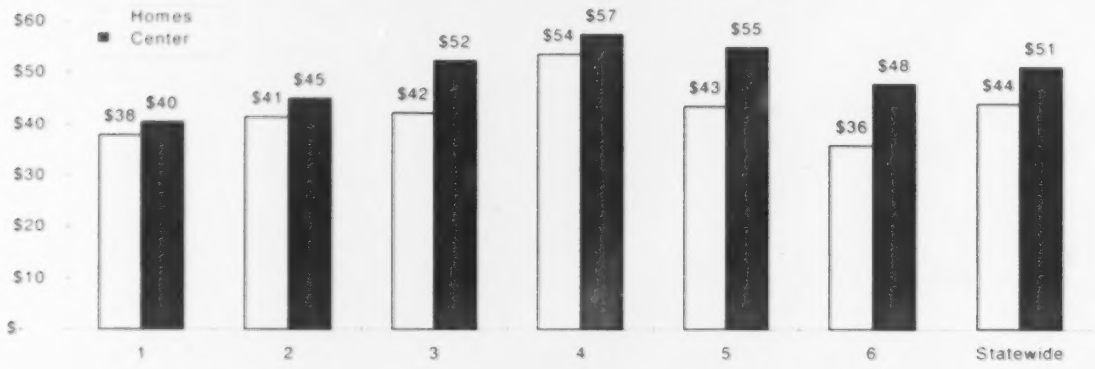
* With 99.9% confidence difference wages differ significantly with or without benefit.

Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis, 1996 Survey of Child Care Centers.

Liability Insurance and Other Expenses in Centers

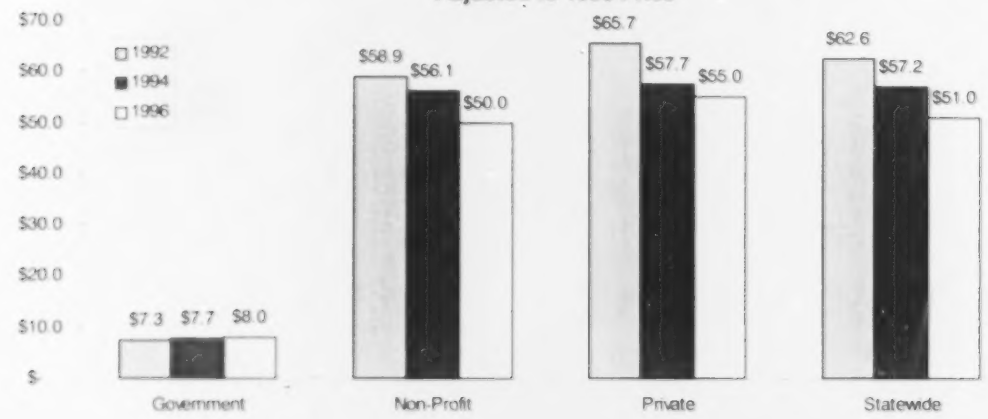
Liability insurance has become an important issue in operating a child care service in the state. Almost all (95 per cent) centers but less than 60 per cent of homes had liability insurance for their business. The average annual cost-per-child of this insurance for centers and homes is reported in Figure 20 by region. Figure 21 and Figure 22 illustrate that the cost of liability insurance has decreased in recent years.

Figure 20. Average Annual Cost of Liability Insurance per Child in Centers and Family Homes by DSHS Regions, 1996



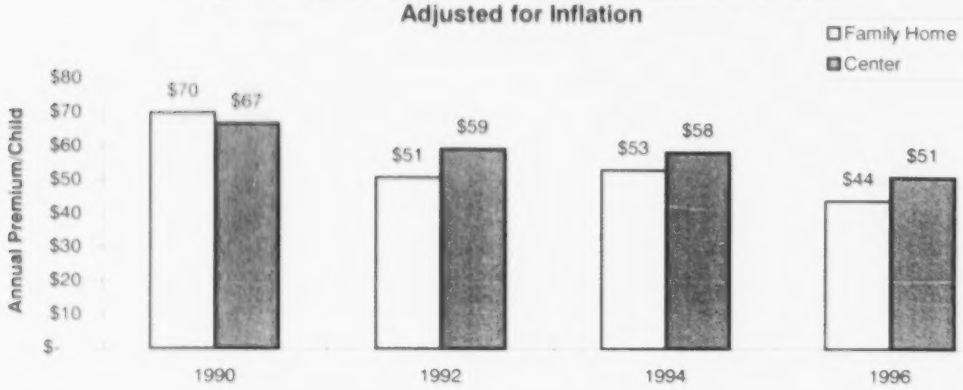
Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis,
1996 Survey of Child Care Centers and Family Homes.

Figure 21. Changes in Per Child Liability Cost for Centers, Adjusted to 1996 Price



Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis
1996 Survey of Child Care Centers

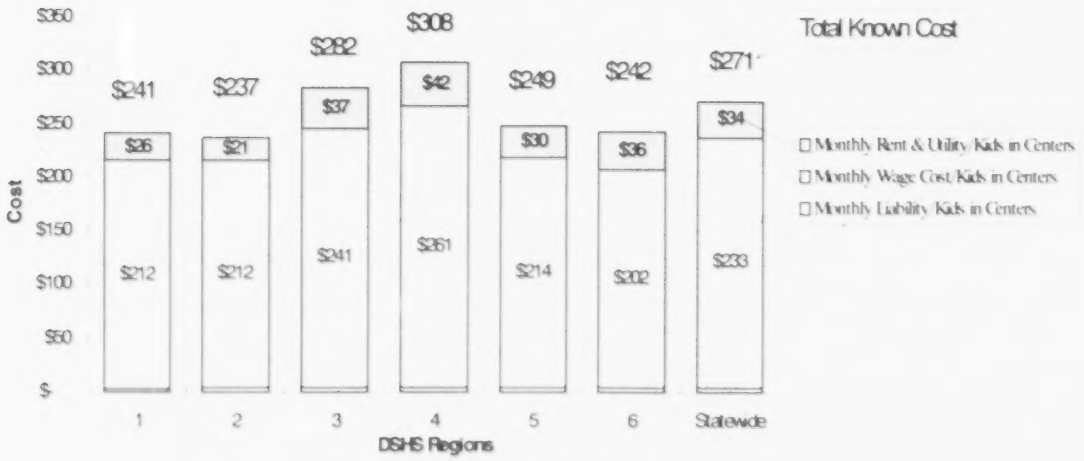
Figure 22. Changing Cost of Liability Insurance per Child Adjusted for Inflation



Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis
1996 Survey of Child Care Centers and Family Homes

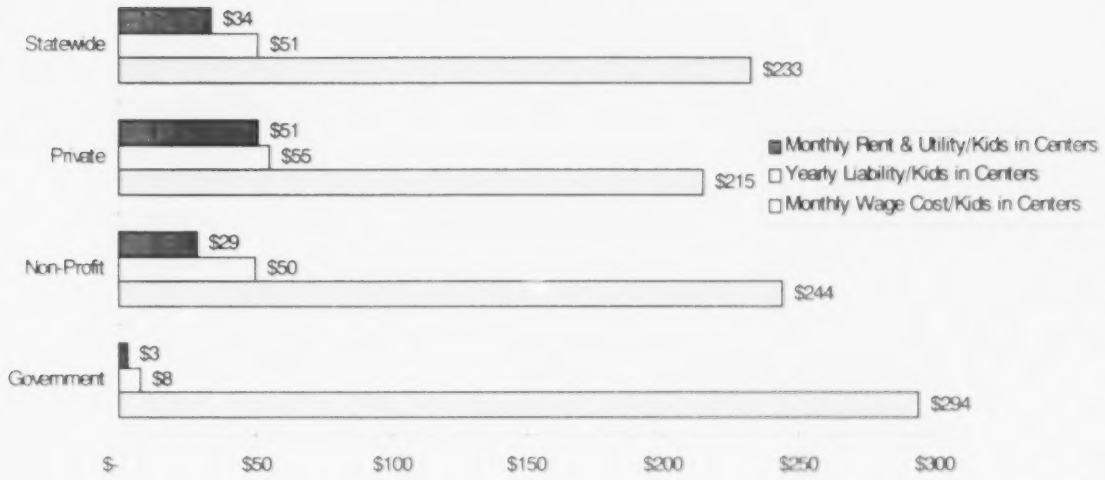
Figure 23 and Figure 24 illustrate the cost structure of child care centers for all costs sampled in the 1996 center survey. These totals assume that all hourly center employees worked full-time (40 hours per week). In this analysis employee wages accounted for most of the costs per child. Other variable costs incurred by the centers such as maintenance of facilities, purchasing of supplies and equipment were not asked in the survey, therefore they are not present.

Figure 23. Average Cost of Child Care Centers



Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis, 1996 Survey of Child Care Centers

Figure 24. Average Costs of Child Care Centers by Center Type

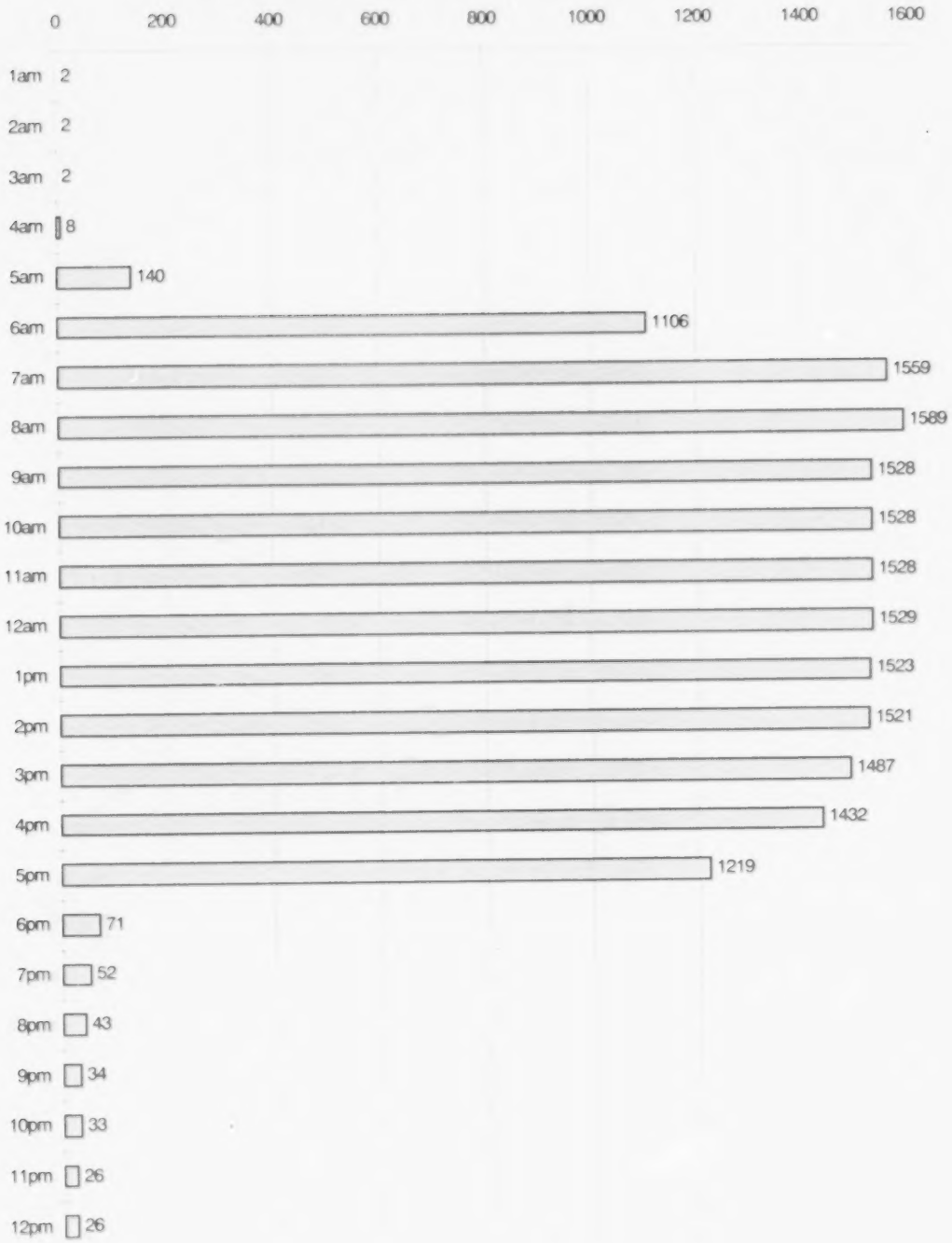


Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis
1996 Survey of Child Care Centers.

Hours of Operation

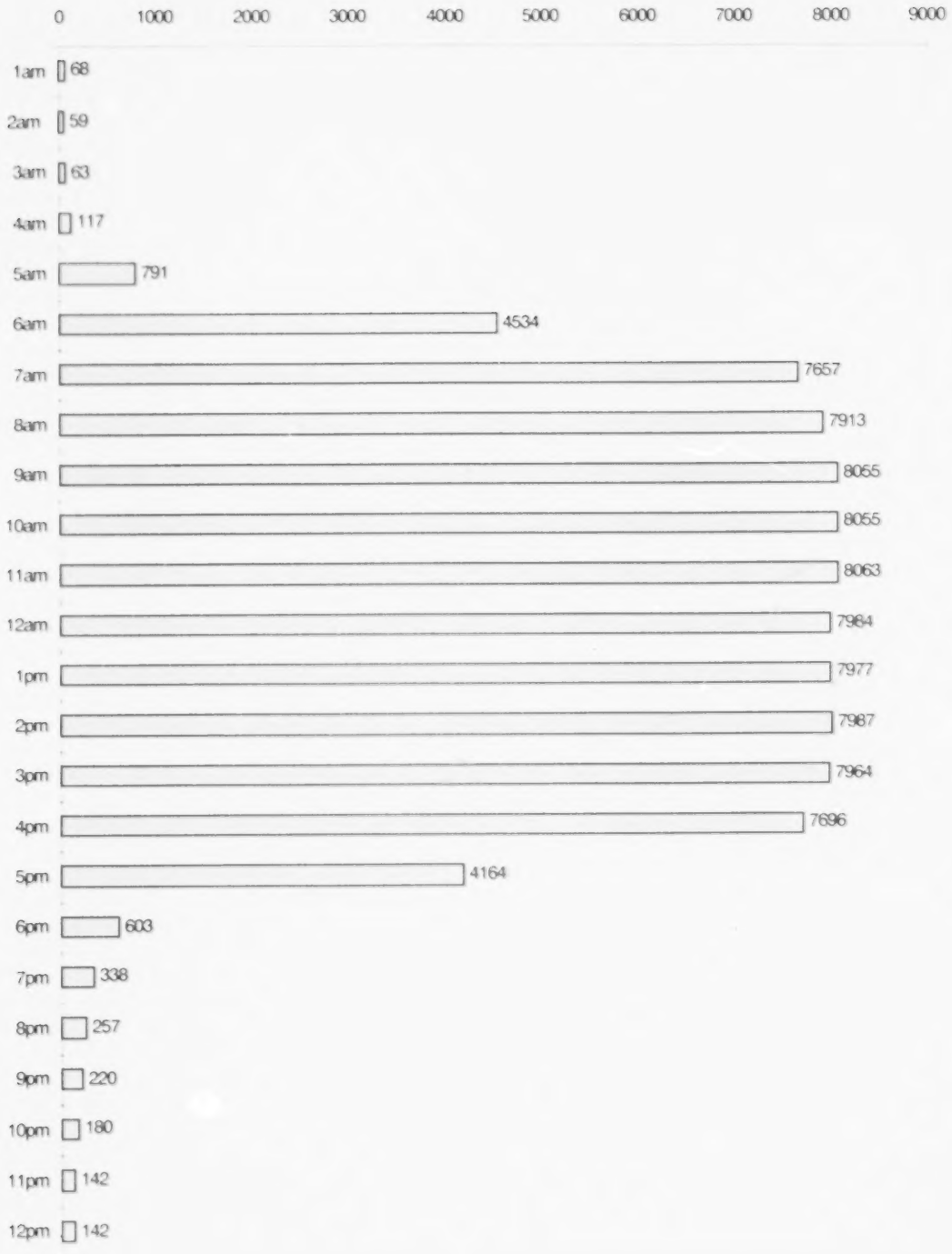
Most licensed child care facilities are open only during the daytime on weekdays. Child care providers were asked about their standard hours of operation. Nearly all centers operated Monday through Friday, but only one percent were open on weekends. Similarly, most family homes operated only on the weekdays, though slightly more, four percent, were open on weekends. Standard hours of operation are predominately from 6:00AM to 6:00PM, with very few centers or homes providing care in the early morning, evening or night-time hours. Figure 25 and Figure 26 show how many centers and homes were open at any particular time.

Figure 25. Number of Centers Operating on Regular Schedule



Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis, 1996 Survey of Centers

Figure 26. Number of Family Home Child Care Operating on Regular Schedule



Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis, 1996 Survey of Family Homes

CHAPTER 5: CHILD CARE RATES

Child Care Rate Structure

DSHS maximum child care rates vary according to a number of factors: what is the age of the child; whether the child is in full- or part-time care; and whether the care is provided in a child care center, in a licensed family child care home, or in the child's own home. Because child care prices may vary from place to place, DSHS also sets its maximum rates according to the prices seen in regional child care markets:

Rate Clusters

As described in Chapter 1, DSHS previously represented the regional markets with four clusters of counties. Counties with similar rates were placed in the same cluster. But on December 1, 1995, DSHS began using its six administrative regions to represent local child care markets (Figure 1), instead of the four rate clusters.

The previous rate clusters were developed so that DSHS maximum rates would accurately represent local child care markets. After the 1994 survey, however, it was clear that the four-clusters no longer reflected local markets. Instead of developing a new clustering of counties -- an arrangement destined for obsolescence -- the six DSHS Administrative Regions were selected as the permanent geographical basis for setting child care rates. The DSHS Regions are stable, well recognized, and permit reasonable estimates of local market rates.

Maximum Rates

DSHS maximum rates are the most the Department will pay to a provider for a given child care rate category. Providers charge DSHS their customary rate or the DSHS maximum rate, whichever is less. Prior to federal welfare reform legislation, DSHS set its rates at the 75th percentile, in accordance with federal regulations. In 1996 The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act rescinded the requirement of paying the 75th percentile market rates. The State legislature in 1997 appropriated a three per cent rate increase for the 1997-1998 biennium, which would have set the new DSHS maximum rates at the 56th percentile. Shortly after that, an additional $4 million was allotted to raise the rates to the 59th percentile. However, in the case of infants, rates were either set at the 59th percentile or left at the old rates, whichever was greater (see Tables 26-30). These new rates were phased in beginning November 1997.

Rates According to 1996 Survey

The 59th-percentile rates observed in the 1996 surveys are the bold number shown in Tables 26 through 29. Beginning in December 1997, these rates became the maximum amounts DSHS will pay for any given category of child care. For example, in Region 1, DSHS will pay no more than $416 a month for full-time infant care in a child care center. Hourly rates are shown for part-time care. Full-time rates are shown as monthly, but may be converted into daily rates by dividing the rates by 22. In Tables 26-29, observed rates are displayed for the 10th , 25th, 50th , 56th, 59th, 75th, and 90th percentiles of each category of child care. Percentile rates are the rates

56th, 59th, 75th, and 90th percentiles of each category of child care. Percentile rates are the rates in rank, below which a specified percentage (5, 10, 25, 50, 75,...) of observed rates fall. For example, the 59th percentile is the rate below which 59 percent of providers offered care in a given rate category.

Table 26. Monthly Full-Time (1) Rates in Child Care Centers
(DSHS Maximum Rates Are in Bold)

Infant: Under12 Months Old

Percentile(2)	Region-1	Region-2	Region-3	Region-4	Region-5	Region-6
10th	$ 320	$ 348	$ 400	$ 560	$ 425	$ 425
25th	$ 375	$ 350	$ 504	$ 600	$ 440	$ 460
50th	$ 407	$ 395	$ 560	$ 660	$ 480	$ 485
56th	$ 412	$ 395	$ 575	$ 689	$ 495	$ 500
59th	**$ 416**	**$ 423**	**$ 576**	**$ 700**	**$ 500**	**$ 504**
75th	$ 450	$ 441	$ 616	$ 750	$ 548	$ 515
90th	$ 490	$ 524	$ 647	$ 810	$ 590	$ 584

Toddler: 12 to 29 Months Old

Percentile(2)	Region-1	Region-2	Region-3	Region-4	Region-5	Region-6
10th	$ 300	$ 300	$ 360	$ 445	$ 335	$ 320
25th	$ 326	$ 332	$ 420	$ 490	$ 355	$ 360
50th	$ 375	$ 348	$ 484	$ 545	$ 400	$ 425
56th	$ 375	$ 365	$ 486	$ 550	$ 405	$ 440
59th	**$ 375**	**$ 370**	**$ 492**	**$ 555**	**$ 410**	**$ 440**
75th	$ 398	$ 400	$ 524	$ 595	$ 468	$ 479
90th	$ 416	$ 455	$ 572	$ 690	$ 507	$ 500

Preschooler: 30 to 59 Months Old

Percentile(2)	Region-1	Region-2	Region-3	Region-4	Region-5	Region-6
10th	$ 275	$ 275	$ 350	$ 380	$ 305	$ 300
25th	$ 303	$ 300	$ 380	$ 424	$ 335	$ 339
50th	$ 330	$ 310	$ 420	$ 466	$ 360	$ 360
56th	$ 335	$ 315	$ 425	$ 475	$ 365	$ 375
59th	**$ 340**	**$ 330**	**$ 427**	**$ 479**	**$ 374**	**$ 380**
75th	$ 354	$ 357	$ 448	$ 515	$ 396	$ 400
90th	$ 385	$ 404	$ 480	$ 575	$ 431	$ 436

School-age: Five Years and Older

Percentile(2)	Region-1	Region-2	Region-3	Region-4	Region-5	Region-6
10th	$ 190	$ 195	$ 165	$ 263	$ 220	$ 240
25th	$ 250	$ 225	$ 210	$ 354	$ 280	$ 289
50th	$ 310	$ 282	$ 344	$ 403	$ 320	$ 340
56th	$ 310	$ 282	$ 356	$ 403	$ 320	$ 345
59th	**$ 330**	**$ 302**	**$ 361**	**$ 450**	**$ 340**	**$ 352**
75th	$ 355	$ 316	$ 415	$ 476	$ 374	$ 391
90th	$ 375	$ 396	$ 455	$ 557	$ 436	$ 440

(1) 30 or more hours per week; For daily rates, divide by 22.

(2) Percentile: The percent of centers at or below the rate shown.

Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis
1996 Survey of Child Care Centers

Table 27. Monthly Part-Time [1] Rates in Child Care Centers
(DSHS Maximum Rates Are in Bold)

Infant: Under12 Months Old

Percentile[2]	Region-1	Region-2	Region-3	Region-4	Region-5	Region-6
10th	$ 2.25	$ 2.30	$ 2.30	$ 3.25	$ 2.20	$ 2.00
25th	$ 2.90	$ 2.30	$ 2.30	$ 3.30	$ 2.50	$ 2.00
50th	$ 3.20	$ 3.00	$ 3.00	$ 4.50	$ 3.00	$ 3.30
56th	$ 3.20	$ 3.10	$ 4.00	$ 4.74	$ 3.00	$ 3.50
59th	**$ 3.20**	**$ 3.50**	**$ 4.30**	**$ 5.00**	**$ 5.00**	**$ 4.75**
75th	$ 4.00	$ 3.50	$ 3.50	$ 5.00	$ 3.75	$ 5.00
90th	$ 4.20	$ 3.55	$ 3.55	$ 5.75	$ 5.00	$ 5.50

Toddler: 12 to 29 Months Old

Percentile[2]	Region-1	Region-2	Region-3	Region-4	Region-5	Region-6
10th	$ 1.81	$ 2.05	$ 2.25	$ 2.25	$ 2.15	$ 2.00
25th	$ 2.25	$ 2.50	$ 2.66	$ 2.66	$ 2.50	$ 2.20
50th	$ 2.60	$ 3.00	$ 3.50	$ 3.50	$ 3.00	$ 2.80
56th	$ 2.75	$ 3.00	$ 3.50	$ 4.00	$ 3.47	$ 3.00
59th	**$ 2.75**	**$ 3.00**	**$ 3.60**	**$ 4.00**	**$ 3.50**	**$ 3.00**
75th	$ 3.00	$ 3.00	$ 4.25	$ 4.25	$ 4.00	$ 3.25
90th	$ 3.50	$ 3.10	$ 5.00	$ 5.00	$ 5.00	$ 4.00

Preschooler: 30 to 59 Months Old

Percentile[2]	Region-1	Region-2	Region-3	Region-4	Region-5	Region-6
10th	$ 2.00	$ 1.75	$ 2.00	$ 2.30	$ 1.92	$ 2.00
25th	$ 2.17	$ 2.00	$ 2.50	$ 2.78	$ 2.44	$ 2.25
50th	$ 2.50	$ 2.61	$ 3.00	$ 3.48	$ 2.83	$ 2.55
56th	$ 2.50	$ 2.72	$ 3.15	$ 3.75	$ 3.00	$ 2.67
59th	**$ 2.51**	**$ 2.72**	**$ 3.25**	**$ 4.00**	**$ 3.00**	**$ 2.75**
75th	$ 2.95	$ 2.75	$ 3.70	$ 4.70	$ 3.40	$ 3.00
90th	$ 3.50	$ 3.00	$ 4.00	$ 5.00	$ 4.00	$ 3.50

School-age: Five Years and Older

Percentile[2]	Region-1	Region-2	Region-3	Region-4	Region-5	Region-6
10th	$ 1.80	$ 1.58	$ 1.93	$ 1.89	$ 1.44	$ 1.65
25th	$ 2.00	$ 1.85	$ 2.50	$ 2.58	$ 2.00	$ 2.00
50th	$ 2.50	$ 2.50	$ 3.00	$ 3.00	$ 3.00	$ 2.24
56th	$ 2.50	$ 2.60	$ 3.00	$ 3.48	$ 3.00	$ 2.24
59th	**$ 2.51**	**$ 2.72**	**$ 3.25**	**$ 4.00**	**$ 3.00**	**$ 2.75**
75th	$ 3.00	$ 2.75	$ 4.00	$ 4.50	$ 3.50	$ 2.70
90th	$ 3.50	$ 3.49	$ 5.00	$ 5.00	$ 4.30	$ 4.25

[1] Less than 30 hours per week.

[2] Percentile: The percent of centers at or below the rate shown.

Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis
1996 Survey of Child Care Centers

Table 28. Monthly Full-Time [1] Rates in Family Home Child Care
(DSHS Maximum Rates Are in Bold)

Infant: Under12 Months Old

Percentile[2]	Region-1	Region-2	Region-3	Region-4	Region-5	Region-6
10th	$ 219	$ 215	$ 361	$ 366	$ 280	$ 275
25th	$ 275	$ 301	$ 387	$ 464	$ 301	$ 323
50th	$ 323	$ 323	$ 473	$ 516	$ 376	$ 387
56th	$ 352	$ 352	$ 515	$ 550	$ 396	$ 440
59th	**$ 366**	**$ 352**	**$ 528**	**$ 559**	**$ 396**	**$ 440**
75th	$ 396	$ 396	$ 616	$ 616	$ 418	$ 440
90th	$ 430	$ 430	$ 602	$ 645	$ 430	$ 538

Toddler: 12 to 29 Months Old

Percentile[2]	Region-1	Region-2	Region-3	Region-4	Region-5	Region-6
10th	$ 219	$ 258	$ 314	$ 327	$ 275	$ 258
25th	$ 258	$ 280	$ 366	$ 387	$ 323	$ 323
50th	$ 301	$ 323	$ 430	$ 452	$ 344	$ 376
56th	$ 330	$ 330	$ 440	$ 528	$ 387	$ 400
59th	**$ 330**	**$ 330**	**$ 449**	**$ 534**	**$ 396**	**$ 418**
75th	$ 374	$ 375	$ 506	$ 550	$ 440	$ 440
90th	$ 387	$ 430	$ 538	$ 602	$ 430	$ 430

Preschooler: 30 to 59 Months Old

Percentile[2]	Region-1	Region-2	Region-3	Region-4	Region-5	Region-6
10th	$ 215	$ 215	$ 276	$ 310	$ 258	$ 258
25th	$ 269	$ 258	$ 323	$ 344	$ 301	$ 290
50th	$ 301	$ 282	$ 368	$ 430	$ 323	$ 323
56th	$ 330	$ 330	$ 396	$ 484	$ 374	$ 352
59th	**$ 330**	**$ 330**	**$ 400**	**$ 484**	**$ 374**	**$ 352**
75th	$ 348	$ 352	$ 440	$ 550	$ 396	$ 396
90th	$ 344	$ 387	$ 452	$ 542	$ 430	$ 430

School-age: Five Years and Older

Percentile[2]	Region-1	Region-2	Region-3	Region-4	Region-5	Region-6
10th	$ 215	$ 206	$ 237	$ 258	$ 215	$ 215
25th	$ 258	$ 258	$ 290	$ 323	$ 258	$ 258
50th	$ 290	$ 280	$ 333	$ 376	$ 301	$ 323
56th	$ 308	$ 286	$ 374	$ 409	$ 330	$ 330
59th	**$ 308**	**$ 286**	**$ 374**	**$ 418**	**$ 330**	**$ 330**
75th	$ 330	$ 330	$ 418	$ 440	$ 352	$ 352
90th	$ 344	$ 344	$ 452	$ 495	$ 430	$ 376

(1) 30 or more hours per week; For daily rates, divide by 22.

(2) Percentile: The percent of centers at or below the rate shown.

Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis
1996 Survey of Child Care Centers

Table 29. Monthly Part-Time [1] Rates in Family Home Child Care

Infant: Under12 Months Old

Percentile[2]	Region-1	Region-2	Region-3	Region-4	Region-5	Region-6
10th	$ 1.50	$ 1.60	$ 2.00	$ 2.36	$ 1.60	$ 1.70
25th	$ 1.75	$ 1.88	$ 2.25	$ 2.50	$ 1.60	$ 2.00
50th	$ 1.80	$ 2.00	$ 2.75	$ 3.00	$ 2.25	$ 2.50
56th	$ 1.86	$ 2.00	$ 2.78	$ 3.19	$ 2.25	$ 2.50
59th	**$ 2.64**	**$ 2.13**	**$ 3.00**	**$ 4.17**	**$ 3.13**	**$ 2.86**
75th	$ 2.20	$ 2.00	$ 3.75	$ 5.00	$ 2.50	$ 2.86
90th	$ 2.25	$ 2.50	$ 6.25	$ 8.00	$ 5.67	$ 3.60

Toddler: 12 to 29 Months Old

Percentile[2]	Region-1	Region-2	Region-3	Region-4	Region-5	Region-6
10th	$ 1.50	$ 1.50	$ 2.00	$ 2.20	$ 1.50	$ 1.50
25th	$ 1.60	$ 1.67	$ 2.22	$ 2.50	$ 2.00	$ 2.00
50th	$ 1.86	$ 1.80	$ 2.50	$ 3.13	$ 2.40	$ 2.20
56th	$ 2.00	$ 1.88	$ 2.50	$ 3.43	$ 2.46	$ 2.26
59th	**$ 2.00**	**$ 1.88**	**$ 2.50**	**$ 3.50**	**$ 2.50**	**$ 2.40**
75th	$ 2.13	$ 2.25	$ 3.00	$ 4.17	$ 3.00	$ 2.75
90th	$ 2.67	$ 2.71	$ 3.50	$ 5.04	$ 3.00	$ 3.00

Preschooler: 30 to 59 Months Old

Percentile[2]	Region-1	Region-2	Region-3	Region-4	Region-5	Region-6
10th	$ 1.50	$ 1.38	$ 1.88	$ 1.94	$ 1.40	$ 1.50
25th	$ 1.52	$ 1.60	$ 2.00	$ 2.50	$ 1.85	$ 1.90
50th	$ 1.88	$ 1.88	$ 2.25	$ 2.84	$ 2.00	$ 2.00
56th	$ 2.00	$ 2.00	$ 2.48	$ 3.00	$ 2.00	$ 2.13
59th	**$ 2.00**	**$ 2.00**	**$ 2.50**	**$ 3.00**	**$ 2.00**	**$ 2.25**
75th	$ 2.00	$ 2.25	$ 2.73	$ 3.50	$ 2.50	$ 2.50
90th	$ 2.50	$ 2.76	$ 3.00	$ 4.25	$ 3.25	$ 3.20

School-age: Five Years and Older

Percentile[2]	Region-1	Region-2	Region-3	Region-4	Region-5	Region-6
10th	$ 1.40	$ 1.40	$ 1.75	$ 2.00	$ 1.60	$ 1.50
25th	$ 1.60	$ 1.67	$ 2.00	$ 2.50	$ 2.00	$ 1.80
50th	$ 2.00	$ 2.00	$ 2.50	$ 2.75	$ 2.50	$ 2.00
56th	$ 2.00	$ 2.00	$ 2.50	$ 2.80	$ 2.50	$ 2.25
59th	**$ 2.00**	**$ 2.00**	**$ 2.67**	**$ 2.92**	**$ 2.60**	**$ 2.40**
75th	$ 2.50	$ 2.33	$ 3.00	$ 3.30	$ 3.00	$ 2.80
90th	$ 3.00	$ 3.00	$ 4.00	$ 3.75	$ 4.00	$ 3.33

[1] Less than 30 hours per week.

[2] Percentile: The percent of centers at or below the rate shown.

Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis
1996 Survey of Child Care Centers

Table 30. Maximum DSHS Child Care Subsidy Rates

Effective November 1, 1997

59th Percentile Rates

Full-Time Center Care: Dollars per Month

Age Group	DSHS Regions 1	2	3	4	5	6
Infant	416	435	576	700	500	504
Toddler	375	370	492	555	410	440
Preschool	340	330	427	479	374	380
School-age	330	302	361	450	340	352

Part-Time Center Care: Dollars per Hour

Age Group	DSHS Regions 1	2	3	4	5	6
Infant	3.20	3.50	4.30	5.00	5.00	4.75
Toddler	2.75	3.00	3.60	4.00	3.50	3.00
Preschool	2.51	2.72	3.25	4.00	3.00	2.75
School-age	2.51	2.68	3.10	3.50	3.00	2.24

Full-Time Family Home Care: Dollars per Month

Age Group	DSHS Regions 1	2	3	4	5	6
Infant	366	352	528	559	396	440
Toddler	330	330	449	534	396	418
Preschool	330	330	400	484	374	352
School-age	308	286	374	418	330	330

Part-Time Family Home Care: Dollars per Hour

Age Group	DSHS Regions 1	2	3	4	5	6
Infant	2.64	2.13	3.00	4.17	3.13	2.86
Toddler	2.00	1.88	2.50	3.50	2.50	2.40
Preschool	2.00	2.00	2.50	3.00	2.00	2.25
School-age	2.00	2.00	2.67	2.92	2.60	2.40

Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis
1996 Survey of Child Care Centers

Factors Associated with the Price of Child Care

Factors Apart from DSHS Rate Categories

Many factors in both supply and demand may affect the market price of child care. In this study, we do not attempt to address all such factors. Instead, we mainly concentrate on some selected factors concerning the providers.

As in any business, homes and centers must charge to stay in operation. Facilities incur costs such as rent or mortgages, insurance, and employee salaries and benefits. Providers based their prices partly on such costs analyzed in the previous chapter. As already shown, the price of child care also varies according to the age of the child, the time in care, the location, and type of care provided.

Further analysis of the survey data revealed that there are other factors significantly associated with the price of child care. For example, do the providers accept children with DSHS subsidies? To this question, we will give a broad answer here in this chapter, and leave the more detail analysis to the next chapter.

The following section focuses on some business factors associated with the child care prices. For simplicity, only full-time rates for preschoolers were used in this analysis. Because full-time preschoolers comprise the largest population in licensed child care, the results of these analysis should indicate trends for the entire child care population.

Findings

While there are individual cases that show otherwise, child care rates overall varied significantly with four factors in centers: whether or not they (1) accepted DSHS subsidized children, (2) provided employees paid sick leave, or (3) provided employees health insurance, and (4) the cost of their liability insurance. In homes, rates varied significantly with three factors: whether (1) the provider had a college degree, (2) child care was a primary source of income, and (3) the provider had early childhood education (ECE) credits.

Table 31 shows how much child care rates actually varied according to these factors. Centers that accepted DSHS children charged $42 less per month on average than centers that did not. Centers that provided employees with paid sick leave or health insurance charged about $30 more per month than Centers that did not. Also in centers, higher rates were associated with higher liability insurance premiums.

In homes, the providers' education and ECE experience were significant factors associated with rates. Providers with an associates degree or higher charged an average of $28 more per month than their less educated counterparts. Family home providers with professional training in child development (ECE credits) charged $17 more per month than providers who had none. Among homes where child care was the primary family source of income, providers charged an average of $17 more per month.

Table 31. Factors Associated with Child Care Rates in Washington State, 1996 [1]

Center Rates

Accept DSHS Subsidized Child	*Average Monthly Rate for Full-Time Preschool*
Yes	$387
No	$429

Provide Paid Sick Leave	
Yes	$407
No	$379

Provide Health Insurance	
Yes	$412
No	$382

Liability Insurance Premium ($/Child/Year)	
$0-$24	$374
$25-$49	$396
$50-$74	$391
$75-$99	$405
$100 and Over	$419

Family Home Rates

College Degrees [2]	*Average Monthly Rate for Full-Time Preschool*
Yes	$369
No	$342

Primary Source of Income	
Yes	$358
No	$341

Early Childhood Education	
Yes	$352
No	$335

[1] With at least 95% confidence rates varied significantly with the factors shown.
[2] Provider has Associate degree or higher.

Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis
1996 Survey of Child Care Centers

Other Charges and Payment Policies

Center Registration Fees

Over 79 percent of centers charged a registration or enrollment fee in addition to their customary child care fees. Fifty-one percent of those centers required a registration fee only once. Another 46 percent charge once a year. The remaining three percent charge a registration fee two times or more each year. On average centers charged $36 per child, regardless of how often they collected this fee.

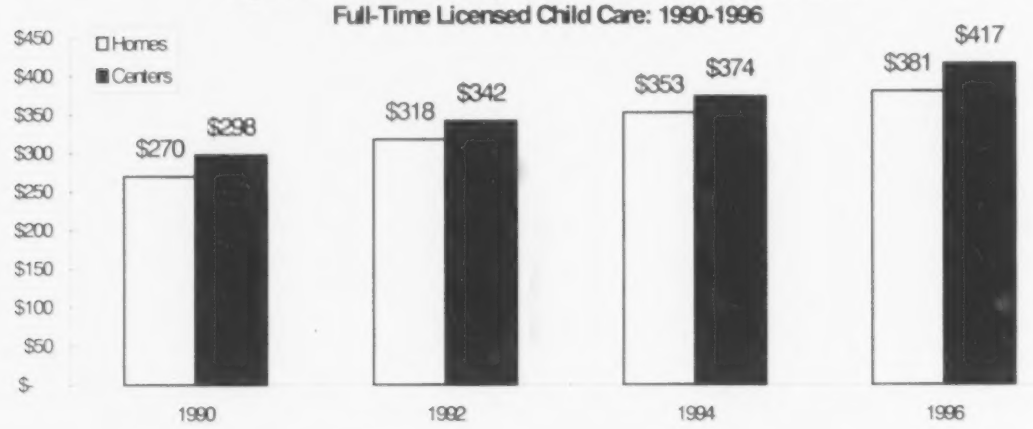
Child Care Price Increases

There are 96 different categories for DSHS licensed child care, making comparisons between categories over years difficult. Changes in average prices, however, are accurate estimates of the overall changes in child care prices through time (assuming the average ages of children and their time in care are the same each year).

Nominal vs. Real Increase

Figure 27 shows the monthly average prices for full-time care for children of all ages in child care centers and in homes, as estimated from the 1990, 1992, 1994, and 1996 rate studies. From 1990 to 1996, statewide average monthly prices paid for full-time licensed child care in centers increased nearly 40 per cent, and family homes increased 41 per cent. But these are only nominal increase. Any comparisons over time must take into account the general level of inflation; in other words, real price. While the nominal price of child care centers increased 40 per cent from 1990 to 1996, inflation as measured by the US CPI rose 20 per cent. Figure 28 shows average real prices for full-time licensed child care after adjusting for inflation. Over the period from 1990 through 1996, the inflation-adjusted cost of care increased 16.5 per cent in centers and by 17.5 per cent in homes. It is interesting to note that over this same period, the average real wages for teachers in centers increased by only 5.2 per cent (see Figure 18 in Chapter 4). The real price of full-time family home care climbed by two per cent between the years 1994 and 1996 (from $374 to $381) and that of centers went up five per cent from $396 to $417.

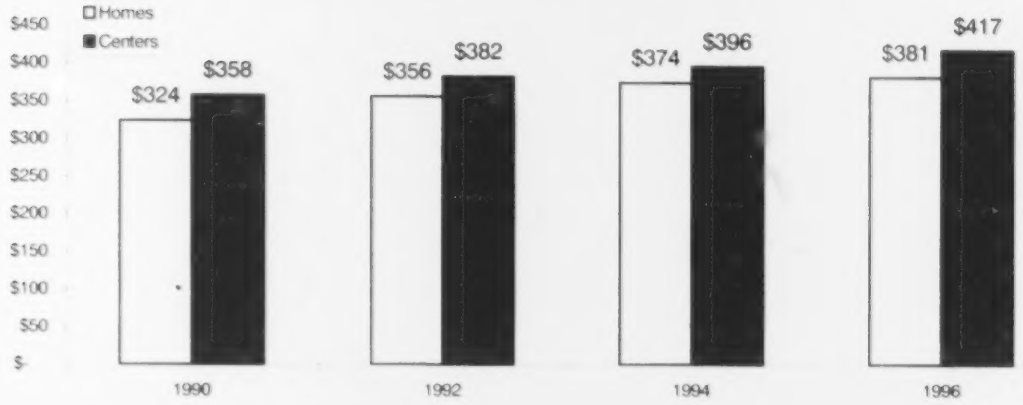
Figure 27. Nominal Average Monthly Prices* for All Children in Full-Time Licensed Child Care: 1990-1996



*Child weighted averages for full-time care.

Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis
1996 Survey of Centers and Family Homes

Figure 28. Average Monthly Prices* for All Children in Full-Time Licensed Child Care:1990-1996, Adjusted for Inflation



*Child weighted averages for full-time care.

Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis
1996 Survey of Centers and Family Homes

CHAPTER 6. DSHS-SUBSIDIZED CHILDREN

Where Subsidized Children Received Care?

In 1996, DSHS subsidized care for an average of 37,000 children per month. These children received care in a variety of ways, either through licensed centers and family homes, or through unregulated but legal providers. In 1996, about 10,200, or nearly 30 percent of all subsidized children, received unregulated care, namely care provided by relatives in the child's home or at the provider's home (Social Service Payment System, unpublished).

At the time of the surveys, Spring 1996, licensed family home providers reported caring for 9,092 DSHS-subsidized children or 15.7 per cent of all children in family-home child care (Table 32), while child care centers received about 15,700 DSHS subsidized children or 16 per cent of all children in centers. DSHS children were widely spread over 84 per cent of centers in the state, and concentrated in only 39 per cent of family homes (Table 32). Among those centers serving DSHS-subsidized children, such children represented about 19 per cent of the center population. Subsidized children accounted for 30 per cent of all children in family homes that served DSHS-subsidized children.

Table 32. DSHS Children in Centers and Family Homes

DSHS Children	Centers	Family Homes	All Licensed Facilities
Estimated Total	15698	9092	24790
As Percent of All Children	16%	16%	16%
Number of Facilities			
with DSHS Children	1435	3379	4814
As Percent of All Facilities	84%	39%	46%

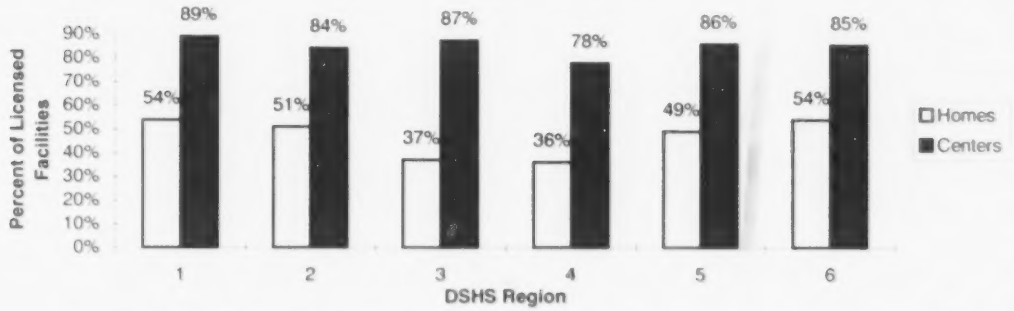
Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis
1996 Surveys of Centers and Homes

Regional Variation

The proportion of licensed facilities serving DSHS-subsidized children varied across the state (Figure 29). In Region 4, the proportion of centers serving subsidized children was significantly less than that in other regions (78 percent compared to 84 percent or more).

Family home providers were less likely than centers to care for subsidized children. Statewide, only 39 percent of family home providers cared for subsidized children, compared to 84 percent of centers. In Regions 3 and 4, significantly fewer homes reported caring for subsidized children than in other regions (Figure 29).

Figure 29. Facilities Serving DSHS-Subsidized Children

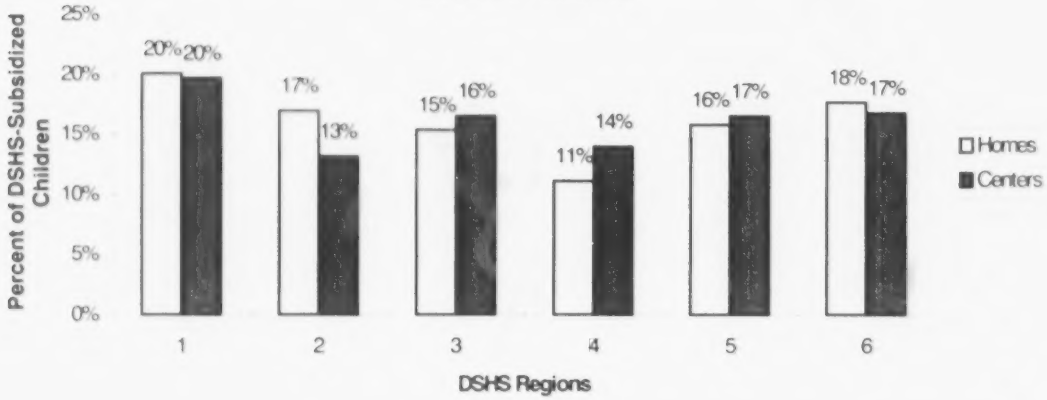


*Region 4 is significantly different from other regions.

Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis
1996 Surveys of Centers and Homes

Despite the vastly different regional proportions of centers and homes caring for subsidized children, the regional differences are less dramatic when the DSHS child population is expressed as percent of the total population (Figure 30). Statewide, the DSHS population as a percent of the total child care population in all licensed facilities was 15.8 percent in centers and 15.7 percent in homes. Subsidized children were a smaller percentage of the child care population in Region 4 than in other regions: 11 percent in homes and 14 percent in centers. In Region 1, subsidized children represented 20 percent of the center population and 20 percent of the family home population.

Figure 30. DSHS-Subsidized Children as Percent of All Children in Licensed Facilities



Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis
1996 Surveys of Centers and Homes

Who Served DSHS-Subsidized Children?

Center Ownership and Acceptance of Subsidized Children

While 84 percent of all child care centers served DSHS subsidized children, almost all (98 percent) who identified themselves as government centers took care of DSHS subsidized children. Non-profit and for-profit centers were equally likely to care for DSHS subsidized children (Table 33).

Table 33. Centers with DSHS-Subsidized Children by Type of Ownership

Ownership Type	Total Number of Centers	Percent with DSHS Children
Non-Profit	871	83.2%
For Profit	737	83.0%
Government	66	98.0%
Statewide	1,798	83.8%

Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis
1996 Survey of Child Care Centers

Limits on the Enrollment of Subsidized Children

Of those centers that served DSHS families, 13 percent said that they limited the enrollment of DSHS children. On average, the limit was nine children. In Region 4, centers were least likely to care for subsidized children (see Figure 29 in previous page), and most apt to limit their number (Table 34).

Table 34. Centers Limiting Enrollment of DSHS-Subsidized Children

DSHS Region	Number of Centers	Percent of Centers Serving DSHS Children	Percent Limiting DSHS Children	Average Limit on DSHS Children
1	258	89%	8%	11
2	161	84%	5%	11
3	275	87%	12%	8
4	545	78%	18%	9
5	265	86%	13%	12
6	207	85%	13%	7
Statewide	1,798	84%	13%	9

Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis, 1996 Survey of Child Care Centers.

In the 1996 survey we asked family providers

1) whether they were willing to care for DSHS-subsidized children, and
2) whether they had cared for DSHS subsidized children in the last typical week.

Ninety-two percent of family home providers said they would be willing to provide care to subsidized families (Table 35). However, only half of family providers who were willing to accept DSHS subsidized children had actually cared for them in 1996.

Table 35. Family Homes Taking DSHS-Subsidized Children

DSHS Region	Willing to Take DSHS Children	Actually Had DSHS Children
1	95%	56%
2	95%	53%
3	94%	38%
4	85%	37%
5	90%	50%
6	88%	55%
Statewide	92%	47%

Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis
1996 Survey of Child Care Centers

DSHS Children and Race/Ethnicity of Family Home Providers

The racial composition of family home providers approximately matches that of the state population. However, larger proportions of two minority groups, namely African-American and Hispanic family home providers, served DSHS subsidized children. Seventy-eight percent of African-American family home providers severed DSHS children, while fifty percent of Hispanic family home providers did the same. The average number of DSHS children in African-American, and Hispanic family home providers were also much higher than state average, as the following table illustrates (Table 36).

Table 36. Family Home Providers Serving DSHS-Subsidized Children by Race of Provider

Race or Ethnicity of Provider	Percent of WA Population by Race/Ethnicity	Number of Providers	Percent of Providers	Percent of the Group Serving DSHS Children	Number of DSHS Children Served*	Average Number of DSHS Children Served
White	83.1%	7,660	89%	38%	7,378	1.1
Black	3.3%	203	2%	78%	520	2.7
Asian	5.8%	220	3%	38%	235	1.2
Native American	1.7%	85	1%	31%	40	0.5
Hispanic	6.1%	432	5%	50%	825	2
State Total	100.0%	8,600	100%	46%	9,070	1.5

* The sum of this column is not equal to the state total because some providers did not reveal their race or ethnic origin, or because the value was missing.

Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis, 1996 Survey of Family Homes.

Access to center care for DSHS-subsidized families has improved since 1990. In the first survey conducted in 1990, 74 per cent centers reported serving DSHS children, compared to 76 per cent in 1994, and 84 per cent in 1996. Further, in 1994, non-profit centers were significantly more likely to care for subsidized children than for-profit centers (79 percent of non-profits as compared to 70 percent of for profits), whereas 83 percent of both for-profit and non-profit reported caring for subsidized children in 1996. Also, of those serving subsidized families, the percent of centers that set limits on DSHS children dropped from 24 percent in 1992 to 20 percent in 1994, and then to 13 percent in 1996. The statewide average limit on DSHS children declined from 13 in 1994 to 9 in 1996. Similarly, family homes showed a general trend of increasing acceptance of DSHS subsidized children since 1990 (Table 37), although there was no major change between 1994 and 1996.

Table 37. Changes in Centers and Family Homes Accepting DSHS Children

Year	Centers with DSHS Children	For-profit Centers with DSHS Children	Centers Limiting DSHS Children	Homes with DSHS Children
1990	74%	67%	unknown	26%
1992	73%	69%	24%	38%
1994	76%	70%	20%	41%
1996	84%	83%	13%	39%

Source: Research and Data Analysis 1990, 1992, 1994, and 1996 Surveys of Child Care Centers and Family Homes.

Effects of DSHS Maximum Rates

DSHS pays providers their usual and customary rates, up to a maximum rate. Every two years DSHS changes the maximum to reflect changes in market rates. At the time of the survey, DSHS maximum rates were set at the 75th percentile of rates observed in 1994. It is reasonable to assume that a provider's decision to accept DSHS subsided children will depend, at least in part, upon whether she will receive her customary rate for care. If subsidy rates were set too low, parents shopping for care might be limited to the least expensive providers.

Among centers caring for full-time preschool-age children, the statewide average rate for such care was less in centers which served DSHS children than in those centers that did not (Table 38). And among centers serving subsidized children, those limiting DSHS enrollment, on average, charged more for full-time preschool care than centers that set no limits. However, we also observed regional differences in these effects. The differences between providers who served and did not serve subsidized children was significant only in Regions 4 and 6 (Table 38). Among providers accepting DSHS subsidized children, significant rate differences were observed only in Regions 1, 2, and 4 (Table 38).

Table 38. Full-time Rates for Preschool-Age Children, Difference between Centers Serving DSHS Children and Those Not

Region	Serving DSHS Children		Of Centers Serving DSHS Children Setting Limit to Their Enrollment	
	Yes	*No*	*Yes*	*No*
1	$324	$309	$352	$322(1)
2	$323	$316	$416	$318(2)
3	$397	$378	$404	$396
4	$460	$516(3)	$496	$453(2)
5	$362	$347	$382	$358
6	$348	$389(2)	$333	$349
Statewide	$387	$429(3).	$419	$380(3)

(1) Significant at 0.05.
(2) Significant at 0.01.
(3) Significant at 0.001.

Source: Research and Data Analysis
1996 Survey of Child Care Centers

A similar comparison among homes also showed that those homes accepting DSHS subsidized children had lower average full-time preschool rates than homes that did not. In this case, the statewide difference was driven by a highly significant difference in Region 4.

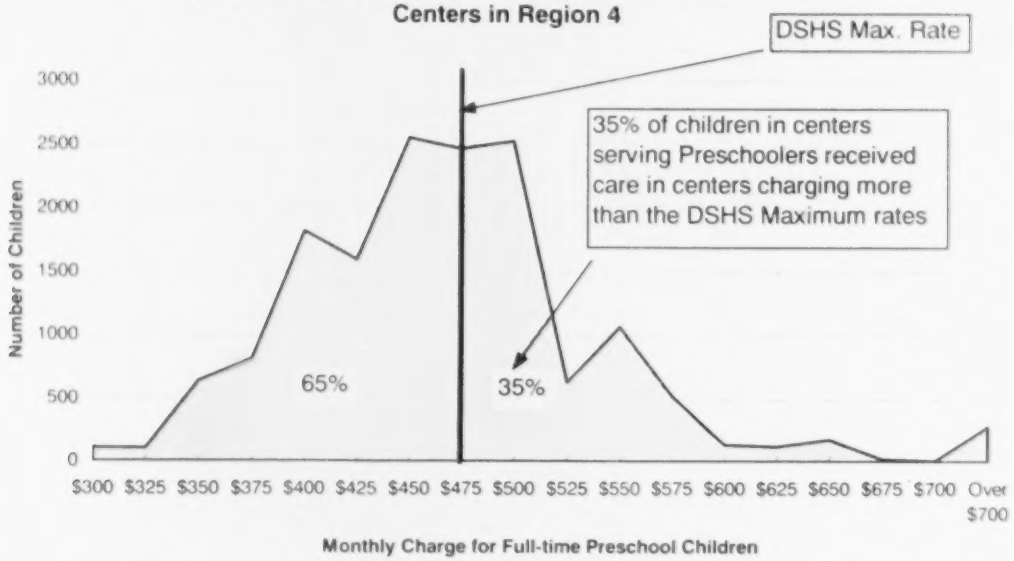
Significant difference in rates between providers who cared for subsidized children and those did not may indicate that DSHS subsidy limits deterred some providers from accepting DSHS subsidized children. Other factors may also have contributed to the observed differences. For example, if expensive providers are more likely to be located in affluent neighborhoods than their less expensive counterparts, there might be few DSHS subsidized children in the area to serve.

Region 4 Centers as an Example

In 1996, as in 1990, 1992, and 1994, DSHS children were accepted by a wide range of providers. Even some of the more expensive providers were willing to care for DSHS children, as illustrated in the following two figures (Figure 31 and Figure 32). For simplicity, we show only centers serving full-time preschool-age children in Region 4, but similar results can be seen with any age group and in homes as well as centers in all regions.

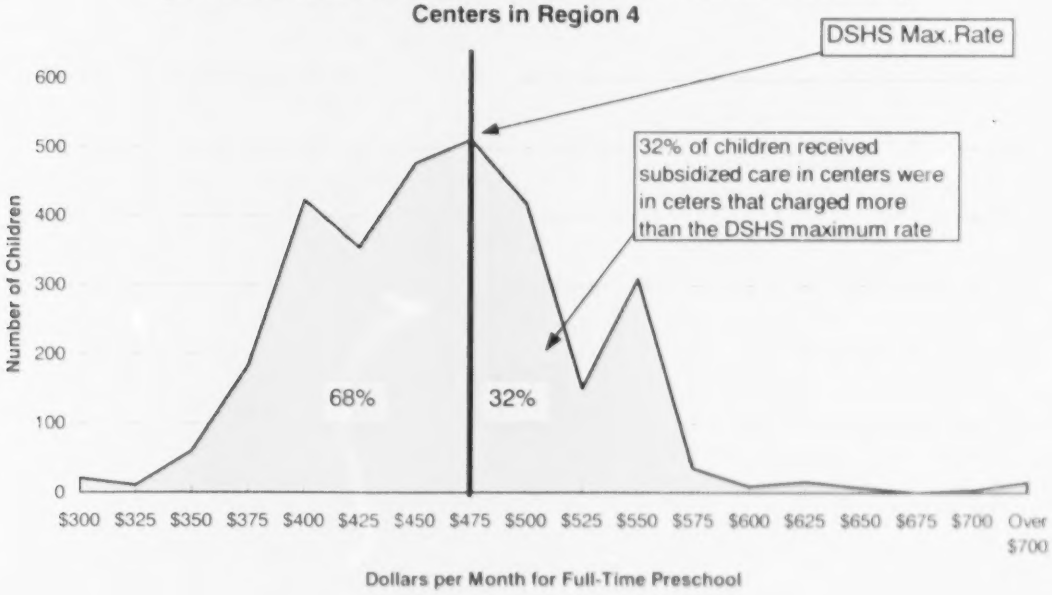
In centers serving full-time preschool-age children in Region 4, thirty-five percent of the total child care population were in centers charging more than the DSHS maximum rate for preschoolers (Figure 31). Of all DSHS children in centers offering full-time preschool care, thirty-two percent were in centers customarily charging more than the DSHS maximum (Figure 32). The distribution of DSHS-subsidized children by rates charged in centers mirrors the overall child care population. Thus, while the maximum rate probably deters some more expensive providers from accepting children with DSHS subsidies, other factors must have been part of providers' decisions.

Figure 31. Total Preschool Children at Each Full-time Rate, Centers in Region 4


DSHS Max. Rate
35% of children in centers serving Preschoolers received care in centers charging more than the DSHS Maximum rates
Number of Children
3000
2500
2000
1500
1000
500
0
65%
35%
$300 $325 $350 $375 $400 $425 $450 $475 $500 $525 $550 $575 $600 $625 $650 $675 $700 Over $700
Monthly Charge for Full-time Preschool Children

Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis
1996 Survey of Child Care Centers

Figure 32. DSHS-Subsidized Children by Full-Time Preschool Rate, Centers in Region 4


DSHS Max.Rate
32% of children received subsidized care in centers were in ceters that charged more than the DSHS maximum rate
Number of Children
600
500
400
300
200
100
0
68%
32%
$300 $325 $350 $375 $400 $425 $450 $475 $500 $525 $550 $575 $600 $625 $650 $675 $700 Over $700
Dollars per Month for Full-Time Preschool

Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis
1996 Survey of Child Care Centers

APPENDIX A

COUNTY-BY-COUNTY STATISTICAL TABLES

Table A1. Child Care Facilities and Slots

Table A2. Vacancies and Vacancy Rates

Table A3. Children in Licensed Child Care

Table A4. Children in Subsidized Child Care

Table A5. Average Price of Full-Time Preschool Care

Table Notes and Sources

Table 1. 1996 County-Level Statistics: Facilities and Child Care Slots

Counties	Licensed Centers	Licensed Homes	Licensed Facilities	Slots in Centers [1]	Slots in Homes FTE [2]	Slots in Homes Capacity[3]	Total [4] Capacity
Adams	6	29	35	769	193	209	978
Asotin	8	13	21	265	94	96	361
Benton	45	336	56	2,557	1,890	2,278	4,835
Chelan	26	184	210	953	927	1,306	2,259
Clallam	14	45	59	663	316	358	1,021
Clark	68	692	269	3,970	3,509	4,423	8,393
Columbia	0	3	3	0	17	24	24
Cowlitz	21	76	97	1,400	468	486	1,886
Douglas	5	84	100	148	491	641	789
Ferry	3	2	5	65	12	14	79
Franklin	18	123	141	1,556	953	842	2,398
Garfield	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grant	9	238	247	380	1,198	1,473	1,853
Grays Harbor	20	93	113	745	575	797	1,542
Island	14	79	360	537	414	515	1,052
Jefferson	2	41	43	100	240	278	378
King	556	2,146	2,702	33,657	11,972	14,934	48,591
Kitsap	76	383	2,745	4,167	2,355	3,057	7,224
Kittitas	11	44	55	420	231	256	676
Klickitat	1	22	23	25	153	181	206
Lewis	16	65	78	636	460	536	1,172
Lincoln	2	13	15	64	83	98	162
Mason	6	61	67	241	419	481	722
Okanogan	14	65	82	386	469	580	966
Pacific	6	20	26	118	139	131	249
Pend Oreille	2	8	10	48	53	51	99
Pierce	216	767	36	11,605	4,884	6,238	17,843
San Juan	7	16	23	221	93	107	328
Skagit	33	161	194	1,355	895	1,118	2,473
Skamania	3	5	217	47	29	32	79
Snohomish	168	1,084	1,252	9,947	5,663	7,520	17,467
Spokane	179	638	817	9,092	3,817	4,937	14,029
Stevens	6	25	2,069	224	162	207	431
Thurston	78	325	403	4,470	1,979	2,447	6,917
Wahkiakum	1	2	3	65	12	14	79
Walla Walla	14	57	406	817	317	393	1,210
Whatcom	56	125	181	2,895	603	845	3,740
Whitman	14	50	64	859	253	361	1,220
Yakima	72	479	245	4,156	3,023	3,063	7,219
State Total	1,796	8,600	10,396	99,622	49,367	61,327	160,949

[1] = Sum of centers' licensed capacities

[2] = FTE children in care + reported vacancies

[3]=Licensed Slots – Provider's own children

[4]=Sum of Licensed Slots in Centers and Homes

Due to higher level of detail, columns may not always agree with totals in this table or totals shown elsewhere.

Research and Data Analysis
1996 Survey of Child Care Centers and Homes

Table 2. 1996 County-Level Statistics: Vacancies and Vacancy Rates

Counties	Total Capacity	Vacancies			Vacancy Rate [5]
		Centers	Homes	Total	
Adams	978	421	27	448	46%
Asotin	361	21	21	42	12%
Benton	4,835	511	329	840	17%
Chelan	2,259	167	120	287	13%
Clallam	1,021	123	61	184	18%
Clark	8,393	475	560	1,035	12%
Columbia	0	0	0	0	--
Cowlitz	1,886	227	105	333	18%
Douglas	789	0	35	35	4%
Ferry	79	12	2	14	18%
Franklin	2,398	202	212	414	17%
Garfield	0	0	0	0	--
Grant	1,853	54	119	173	9%
Grays Harbor	1,542	182	93	275	18%
Island	1,052	64	86	149	14%
Jefferson	378	8	32	40	11%
King	48,591	4,559	2,019	6,578	14%
Kitsap	7,224	509	346	854	12%
Kittitas	676	105	36	141	21%
Klickitat	206	20	36	56	27%
Lewis	1,172	79	37	116	10%
Lincoln	162	20	11	31	19%
Mason	722	53	54	107	15%
Okanogan	966	43	95	138	14%
Pacific	249	23	22	44	18%
Pend Oreille	99	16	13	29	29%
Pierce	17,843	1,694	814	2,508	14%
San Juan	328	44	25	70	21%
Skagit	2,473	171	201	372	15%
Skamania	79	9	12	21	26%
Snohomish	17,467	2,046	867	2,914	17%
Spokane	14,029	1,366	697	2,063	15%
Stevens	431	36	37	73	17%
Thurston	6,917	745	349	1,095	16%
Wahkiakum	79	20	2	22	28%
Walla Walla	1,210	160	57	217	18%
Whatcom	3,740	458	107	565	15%
Whitman	1,220	84	43	127	10%
Yakima	7,219	761	776	1,537	21%
State Total	160,949	15,486	8,461	23,948	15%

[5] =(Vacancies /Licensed slots)x 100

Due to higher level of detail, columns may not always agree with totals in this table or totals shown elsewhere.

DSHS Research and Data Analysis
1996 Survey of Child Care Centers and Homes

Table 3. 1996 County-Level Statistics: Children in Licensed Child Care

Counties	All Children 0-12 YO [6]	Children in Licensed Care: Centers	Homes	Total	% of All [7] Children 0-12	Total Capacity	Slots per 100 Children [8]
Adams	3,856	354	226	580	15%	978	25
Asotin	3,923	452	102	554	14%	361	9
Benton	28,984	2,085	1,909	3,994	14%	4,835	17
Chelan	13,140	933	1,152	2,085	16%	2,259	17
Clallam	10,898	860	396	1,256	12%	1,021	9
Clark	63,989	5,036	4,201	9,237	14%	8,393	13
Columbia	716	0	26	26	4%	24	3
Cowlitz	18,106	1,991	535	2,526	14%	1,886	10
Douglas	6,090	150	652	802	13%	789	13
Ferry	1,470	89	14	103	7%	79	5
Franklin	11,253	1,202	936	2,138	19%	2,398	21
Garfield	412		0	0	0%	0	0
Grant	15,170	469	1,681	2,150	14%	1,853	12
Grays Harbor	13,401	891	704	1,595	12%	1,542	12
Island	13,635	561	492	1,053	8%	1,052	8
Jefferson	4,187	88	335	423	10%	378	9
King	294,740	34,172	13,845	48,017	16%	48,591	16
Kitsap	47,733	3,664	3,027	6,691	14%	7,224	15
Kittitas	4,871	430	256	686	14%	676	14
Klickitat	3,684	36	198	234	6%	206	6
Lewis	13,419	640	603	1,243	9%	1,172	9
Lincoln	1,736	58	107	165	10%	162	9
Mason	8,520	206	519	725	9%	722	8
Okanogan	7,894	325	580	905	11%	966	12
Pacific	3,527	103	191	294	8%	249	7
Pend Oreille	2,249	60	78	138	6%	99	4
Pierce	136,982	11,346	5,784	17,130	13%	17,843	13
San Juan	1,979	247	139	386	19%	328	17
Skagit	18,913	1,366	1,029	2,395	13%	2,473	13
Skamania	1,993	48	23	71	4%	79	4
Snohomish	113,531	9,806	7,319	17,125	15%	17,467	15
Spokane	78,951	9,774	4,113	13,887	18%	14,029	18
Stevens	7,501	359	193	552	7%	431	6
Thurston	37,530	3,589	2,291	5,880	16%	6,917	18
Wahkiakum	662	80	14	94	14%	79	12
Walla Walla	9,641	782	370	1,152	12%	1,210	13
Whatcom	28,747	2,518	845	3,363	12%	3,740	13
Whitman	5,829	636	331	967	17%	1,220	21
Yakima	48,274	4,093	2,804	6,897	14%	7,219	15
State Total	1,088,136	99,499	58,027	157,526	14%	160,949	15

[6] = Based on Office of Financial Management (OFM) estimate of 1996 population of children under 13 years old.

[7] = (Children in licensed care/All Children under 13) x 100

[8] = (Licensed slots/All Children under 13) x 100

Due to higher level of detail, columns may not always agree with totals in this table or totals shown elsewhere.

DSHS Research and Data Analysis
1996 Survey of Child Care Centers and Homes

Table 4. 1996 County-Level Statistics: Children in Subsidized Child Care

Counties	Children in Poverty [9]	Children Subsidized in 1996 [10]	Children in Licensed Care Subsidized by DSHS in [11] Centers	Homes	Both
Adams	977	776	20	74	94
Asotin	1,369	495	95	29	124
Benton	4,700	2,383	187	275	462
Chelan	2,891	2,824	170	240	410
Clallam	2,061	987	164	104	268
Clark	8,751	5,179	804	593	1,397
Columbia	180	0	0	0	0
Cowlitz	3,802	1,515	245	167	411
Douglas	1,064	0	25	64	89
Ferry	457	46	8	3	11
Franklin	3,643	1,842	398	157	556
Garfield	53	0	0	0	0
Grant	4,301	1,962	261	372	633
Grays Har.	3,226	1,520	298	149	447
Island	1,485	506	89	97	186
Jefferson	923	350	22	87	109
King	29,918	22,196	4,772	1,576	6,347
Kitsap	6,706	2,355	458	346	804
Kittitas	952	376	91	25	117
Klickitat	828	371	2	56	58
Lewis	2,781	1,219	211	189	400
Lincoln	317	79	7	16	23
Mason	1,728	746	44	89	133
Okanogan	2,360	1,123	58	253	311
Pacific	1,042	195	35	49	84
Pend Oreille	668	206	23	45	68
Pierce	22,406	11,119	2,019	1,017	3,037
San Juan	181	55	21	16	37
Skagit	3,114	1,440	189	183	373
Skamania	211	93	2	3	5
Snohomish	10,008	7,319	1,415	807	2,221
Spokane	14,246	7,353	1,830	650	2,481
Stevens	1,824	615	65	45	110
Thurston	5,344	2,524	430	260	690
Wahkiakum	68	0	17	3	20
Walla Walla	2,239	1,215	120	103	223
Whatcom	4,030	1,720	489	149	638
Whitman	983	393	128	41	169
Yakima	14,636	7,949	486	758	1,243
State Total	166,158	91,046	15,698	9,092	24,790

[9] = Based on OFM estimates of 1996 populations and poverty rates estimated from the 1990 census.

[10] = Annual unduplicated total for state fiscal year 1996 from the DSHS Social Service Payment System. Included unlicensed care.

[11] = Surveys of centers and family homes. Excludes licensed care.

Due to higher level of detail, columns may not always agree with totals in this table or totals shown elsewhere.

DSHS Research and Data Analysis
1996 Survey of Child Care Centers and Homes

Table 5. 1996 County-by-County Statistics: Average Price of Full-time Preschool Child Care

Counties	Average Monthly Rates for Full-Time Preschool Care [12] Centers	Homes	All Facilities
Adams	$ 287	$ 276	$ 281
Asotin	$ 313	$ 297	$ 311
Benton	$ 368	$ 309	$ 335
Chelan	$ 330	$ 308	$ 320
Clallam	$ 379	$ 391	$ 384
Clark	$ 381	$ 316	$ 355
Columbia	Not shown when fewer than 5 facilities.		
Cowlitz	$ 329	$ 307	$ 326
Douglas	$ 317	$ 310	$ 312
Ferry	Not shown when fewer than 5 facilities.		
Franklin	$ 334	$ 301	$ 316
Garfield	Not shown when fewer than 5 facilities.		
Grant	$ 327	$ 281	$ 293
Grays Har.	$ 347	$ 321	$ 336
Island	$ 409	$ 324	$ 358
Jefferson	< 5 facilities	$ 344	$ 352
King	$ 478	$ 418	$ 463
Kitsap	$ 356	$ 333	$ 347
Kittitas	$ 341	$ 307	$ 328
Klickitat	< 5 facilities	$ 254	$ 254
Lewis	$ 351	$ 332	$ 340
Lincoln	< 5 facilities	$ 271	$ 271
Mason	$ 302	$ 309	$ 306
Okanogan	$ 292	$ 273	$ 276
Pacific	$ 338	$ 296	$ 301
Pend Oreille	< 5 facilities	$ 224	$ 242
Pierce	$ 368	$ 332	$ 357
San Juan	$ 520	$ 347	$ 388
Skagit	$ 389	$ 363	$ 378
Skamania	< 5 facilities	$ 263	$ 257
Snohomish	$ 426	$ 375	$ 407
Spokane	$ 332	$ 295	$ 319
Stevens	$ 291	$ 289	$ 290
Thurston	$ 384	$ 361	$ 378
Wahkiakum	Not shown when fewer than 5 facilities.		
Walla Walla	$ 322	$ 295	$ 315
Whatcom	$ 364	$ 321	$ 352
Whitman	$ 357	$ 307	$ 342
Yakima	$ 311	$ 282	$ 299
State Total	$ 409	$ 348	$ 388

[12] = To mainatain confidentiality, we do not show average rates for counties with fewer than 5 facilities.

Notes for Appendix A.

Important: Due to missing values at the county level, totals from the county-by-county tables may not agree with totals shown elsewhere in the report.

Centers were interviewed between February 14 and April 4, 1996.

Homes were interviewed between March 1 and March 26, 1996.

[1] Sum of centers' licensed capacities.

[2] = FTE children in care + reported vacancies

[3] = Licensed Slots –Provider's Own Children

[4] = Sum of Licensed Slots in Centers and Homes

[5] $= \frac{\text{Children in Licensed Care}}{\text{All Children under 13}} \times 100$

[6] Based on Office of Financial Management (OFM) estimate of 1996 population of children under 13 years old.

[7] $= \frac{\text{Children in Licensed Care}}{\text{All Children under 13}} \times 100$

[8] $= \frac{\text{Licensed Slots}}{\text{All Children under 13}} \times 100$

[9] Based on OFM estimates of 1996 populations and poverty rates estimated from the 1990 census.

[10] Annual unduplicated total for federal fiscal year 1996 from the DSHS Social Services Payment System (SSPS). Includes unlicensed care.

[11] Surveys of centers and family homes. Excludes licensed care.

[12] To maintain confidentiality, we do not show average rates for counties with fewer than 5 facilities.

APPENDIX B

MAPS WITH COUNTY-LEVEL CHILD CARE STATISTICS

Figure B1. Washington State Counties

Figure B2. Number of Licensed Centers

Figure B3. Number of Licensed Homes

Figure B4. Number of Slots in Centers

Figure B5. Full-Time Equivalent Slots in Homes

Figure B6. Family Home Capacity

Figure B7. Total Licensed Capacity

Figure B8. Total Child Population (0-12 years)

Figure B9. Licensed Slots per 100 Children

Figure B10. DSHS-Subsidized Children in Licensed Care

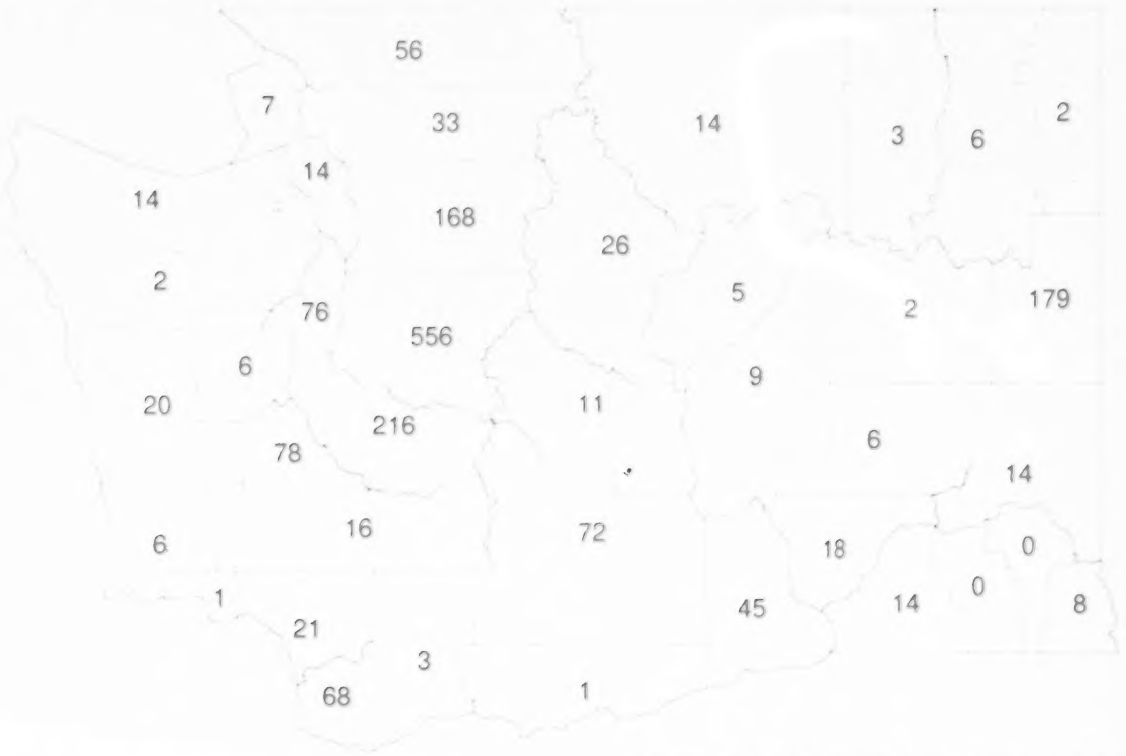
Figure B11. Total Reported Vacancies

Figure B12. Percent Vacancies

Figure B1. Washington State Counties

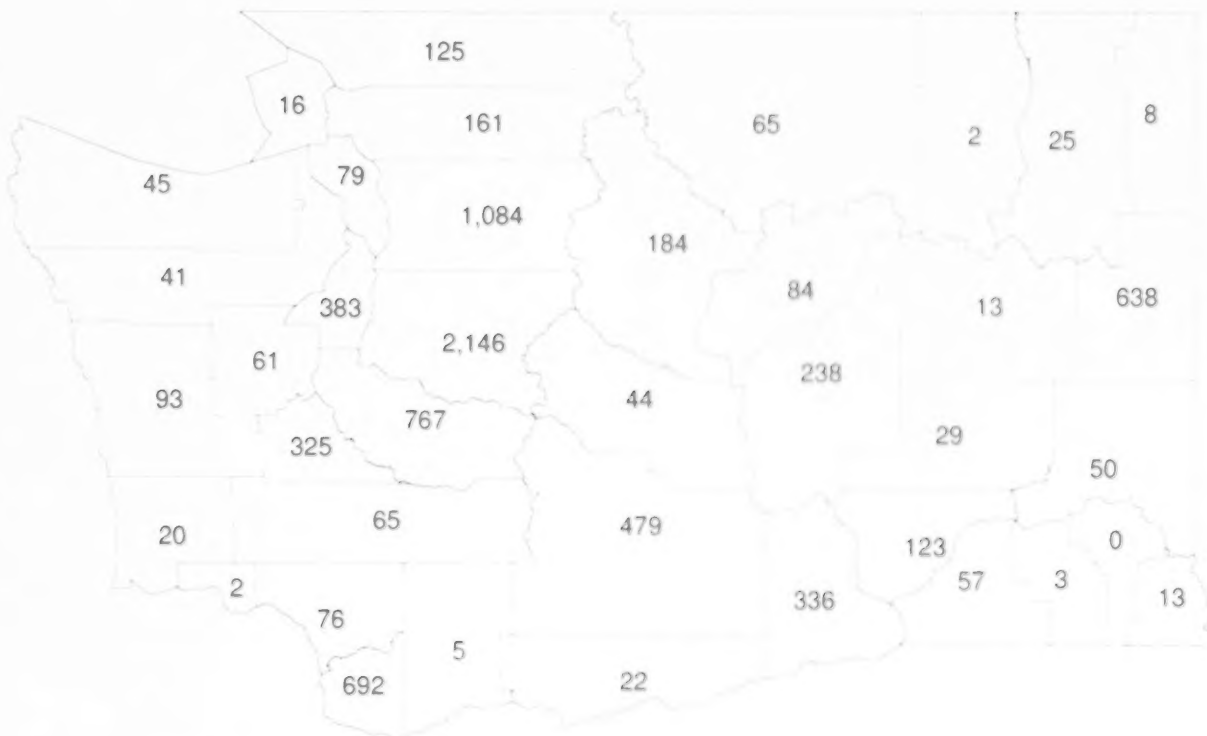
Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis

Figure B2. Number of Licensed Child Care Centers in 1996



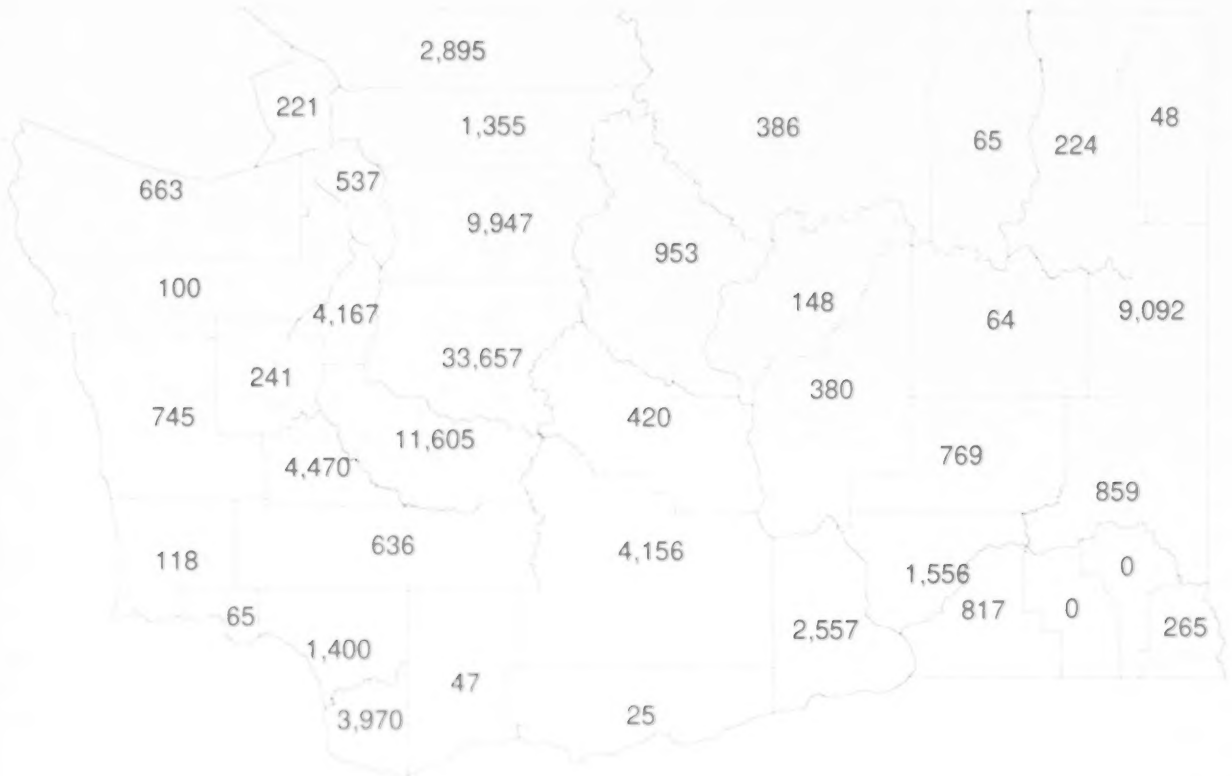
Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis

Figure B3. Number of Licensed Child Care Homes in 1996



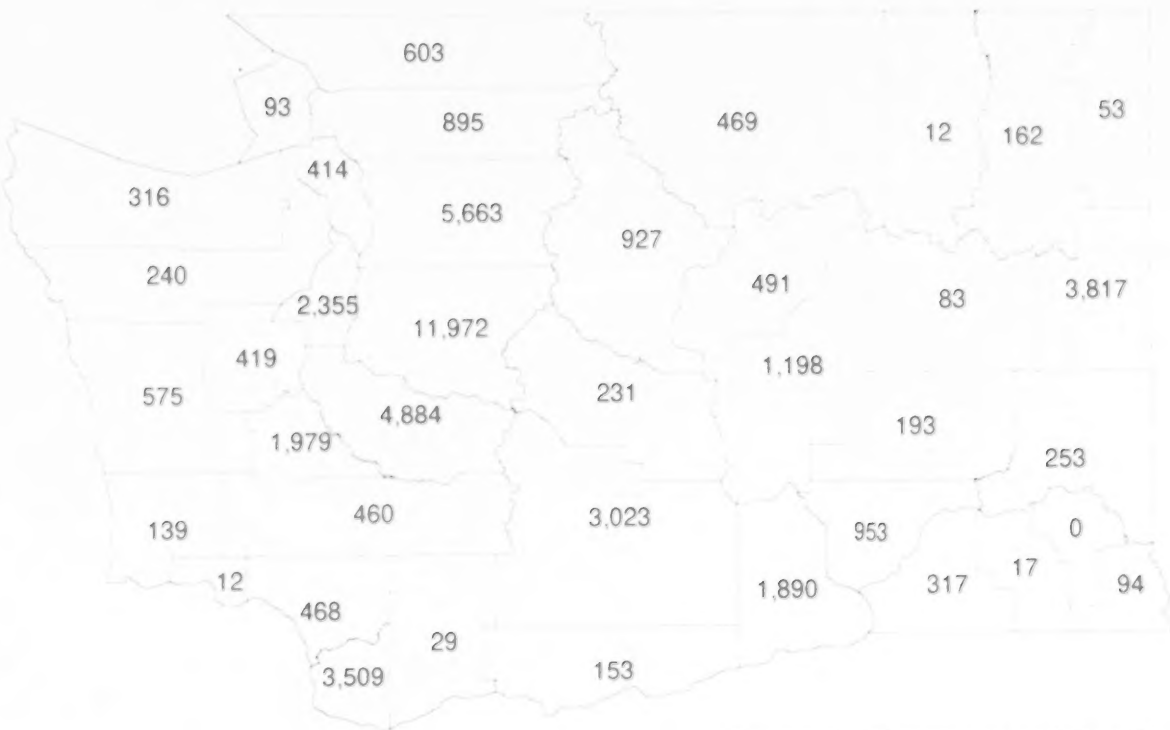
Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis

Figure B4. Child Care Slots in Licensed Centers in 1996



Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis

Figure B5. Full-Time Equivalent Slots in Homes, 1996

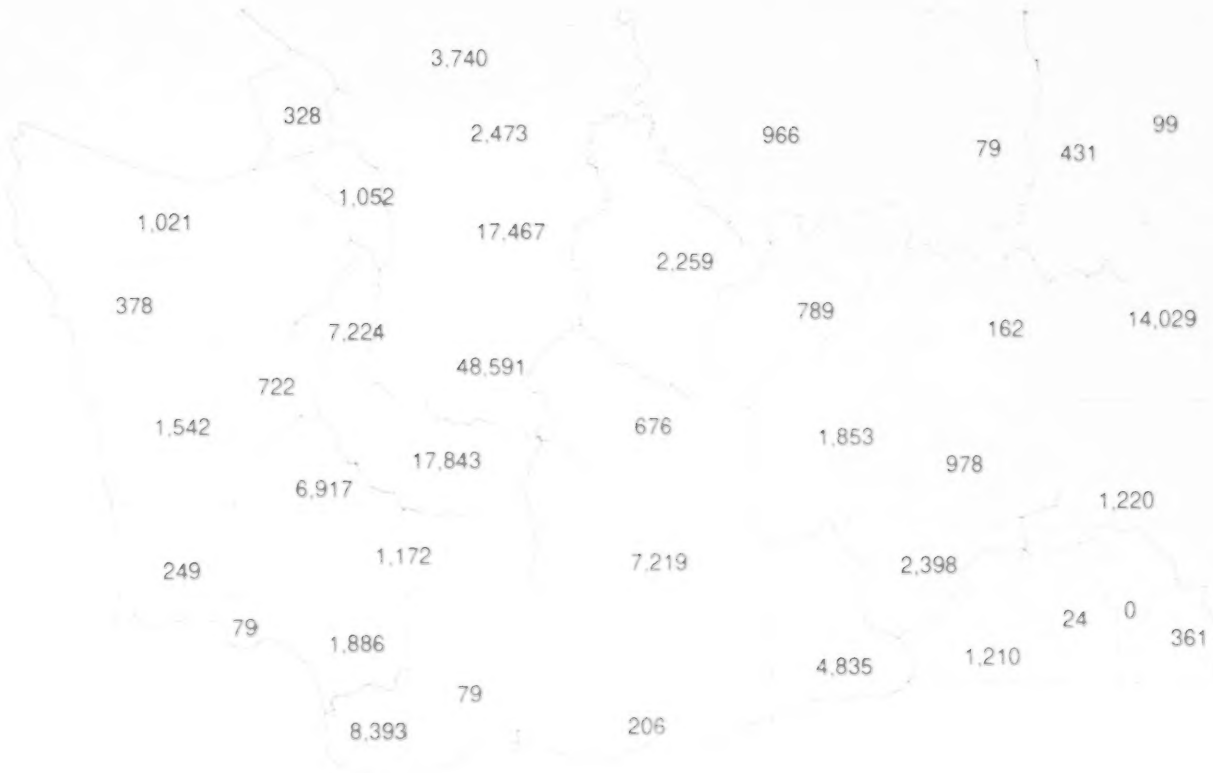


Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis

Figure B6. Family Homes Capacity, 1996

Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis

Figure B7. Total Licensed Capacity, 1996



Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis

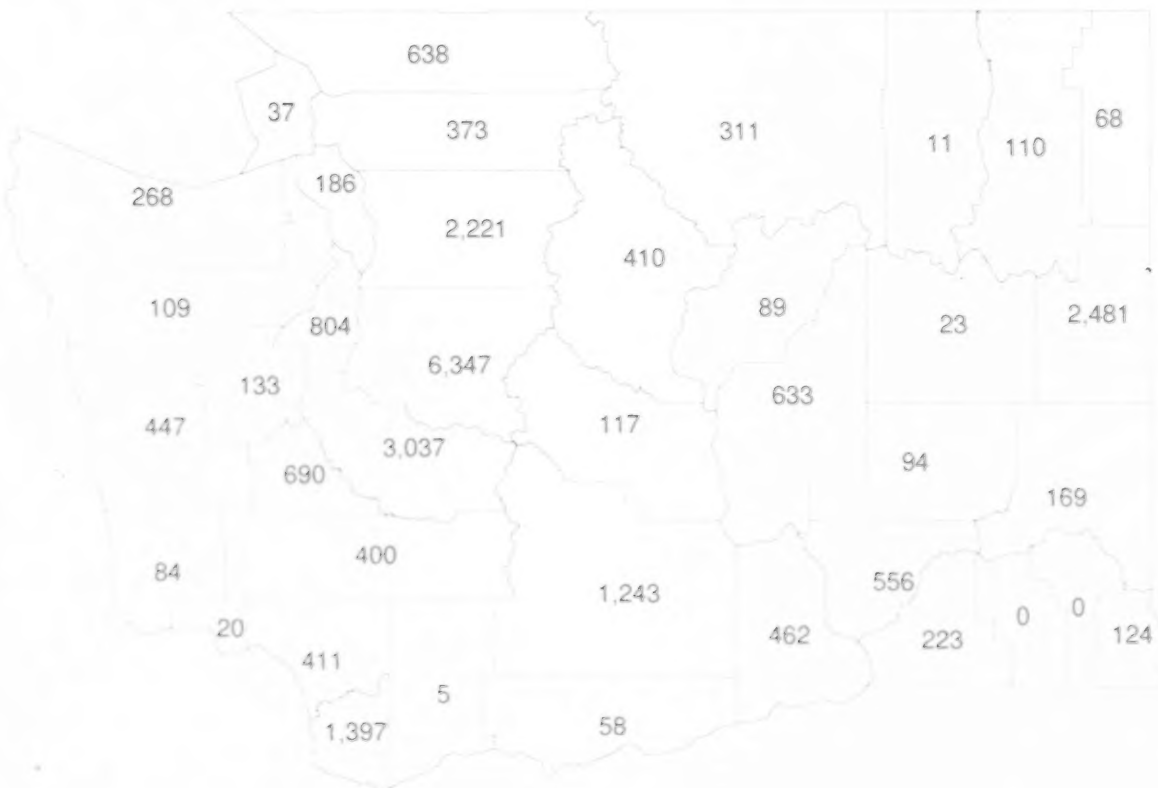
Map B8. Total Child Population (O-12 years)

Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis

Figure B9. Licensed Slots per 100 Children, 1996

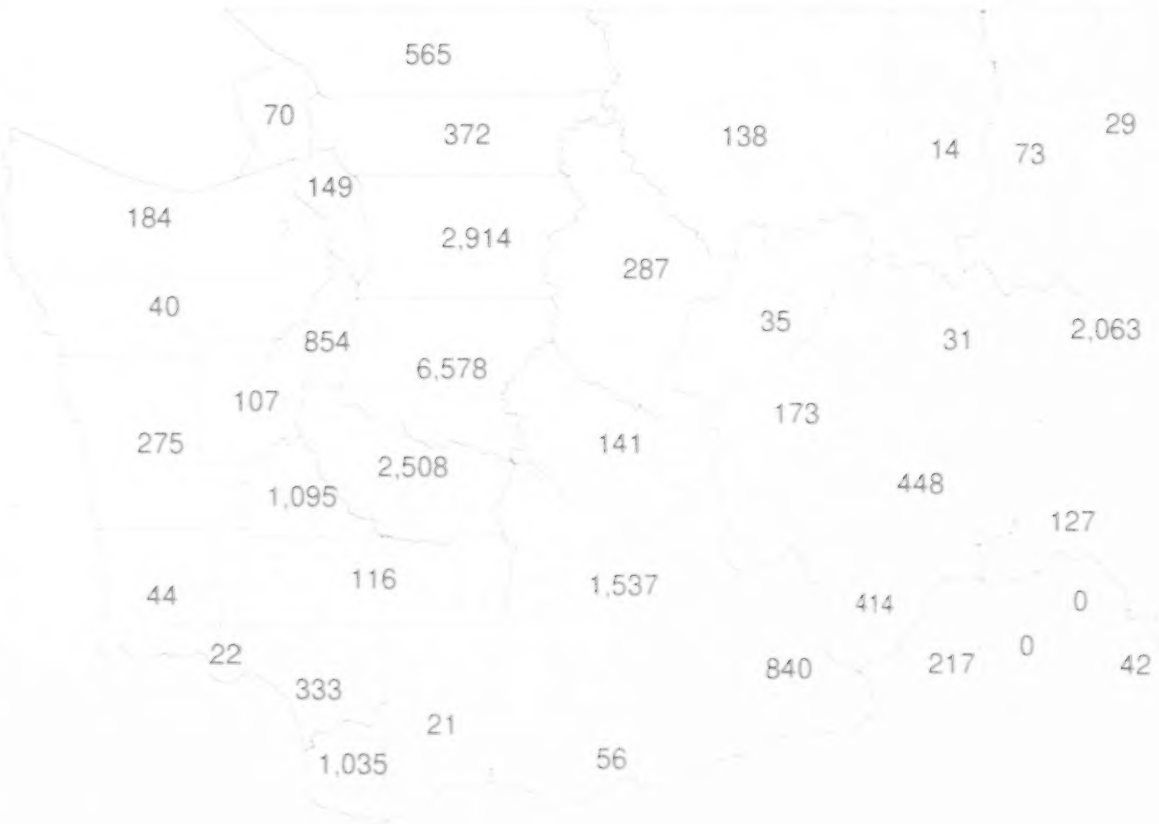
Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis

Figure B10. DSHS-Subsidized Children in Licensed Care in 1996



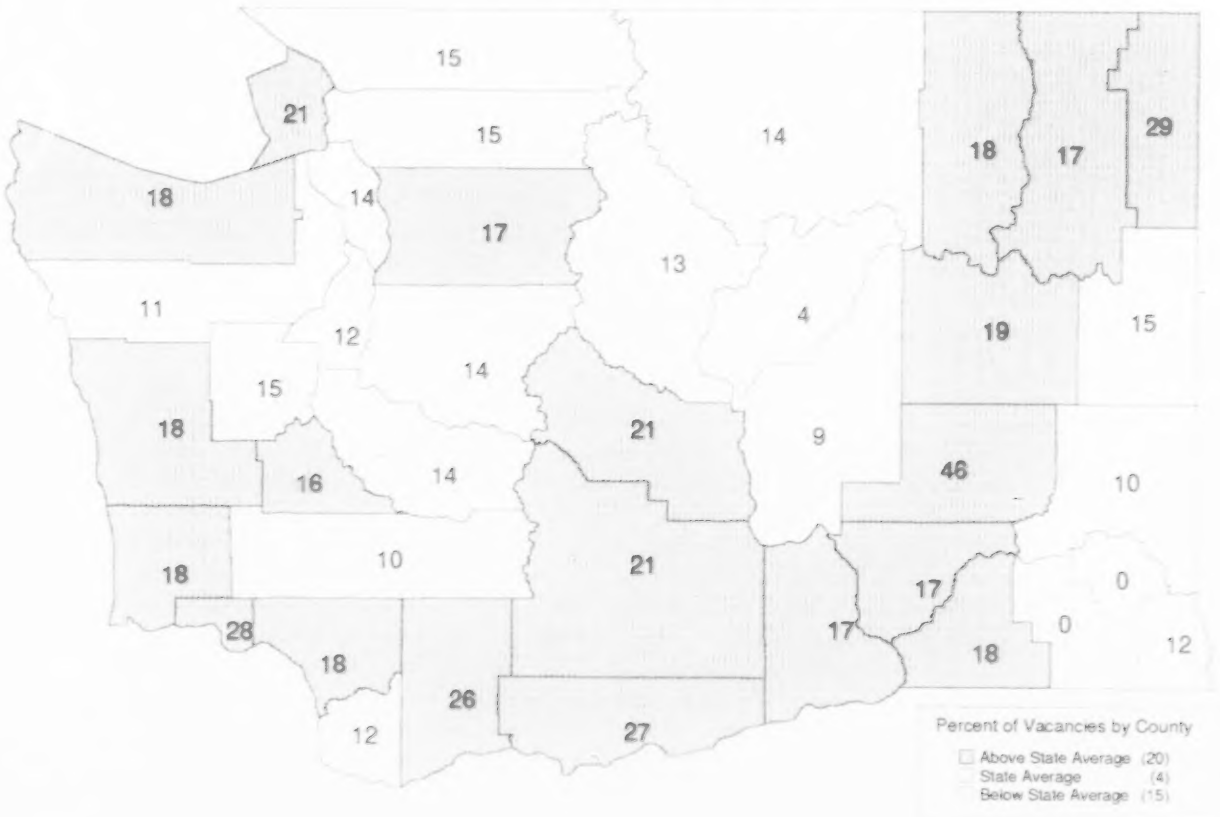
Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis

Figure B11. Total Reported Vacancies in Licensed Care in 1996



Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis

Figure B 12. Percent of Vacancies in Licensed Care in 1996



Source: DSHS Research and Data Analysis

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